THE FRENCH ROGUE.

Being a Pleasant

HISTORY

OF

His LIFE and FORTUNE,

adorned with variety of other

ADVENTURES

of no less Rarity.

WITH

EPIGRAMS

Suitable to each Stratagem.

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Printed by T. N. for *Samuel Lowndes*, and are to be sold at his Shop, over-against Exeter House in the *Strand*. 1672.

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TO THE READER.

IT was once publickly asserted by an old *Philosopher*, to his followers, that were so austere in their course of Learning, as to allow their Wits no recreation nor divertisement, and is a truth certainly undeniable: That as the richest soil by continual exercise, becomes at last barren and unfruitful, at the best answereth not the expectation of the Husbandman (not to instance in a thousand Similitudes of the like nature) so the

noblest parts of Men, if always entertained with the most serious and profoundest Notions; either over-prest with the weight, they crack; or clogged, they become dull and unapt to exert their proper Faculties.

Quod caret alternâ requie durabile non est,
Hæc reparat vires, fessaque membra levat.

Says *Phædra* to her *Hippolites*, then strengtheneth her Argument with a Similitude

Arcus & arma tuæ tibi sunt imitanda Dianæ,
Si nunquam cesses tendere, mollis erit.

But contrariwise, by seasonable pastimes, our faculties are so re-

created

created and well disposed to their several operations, that they produce Effects most strong and vigorous.

This makes me hope, kind Reader, that when thou art tired with thy more serious affairs, or desire to be rid of some troublesome thoughts that disturb thy Quiet, thou wilt afford this *Little Rogue* some Minutes to make sport.

Be not afraid to entertain him, 'tis not his designe to make thee of his Gang, nor is he a *Newgate-bird* that may at length pick out thy Eyes, or a Gipsy that may rob thee secretly. No, no, he's a *Pretty Rogue*, not guilty of Murther, and those hainous Ballad-crimes that are as miserably sang every day in the street, as com-

committed, if they were true. Yet this I'll tell you; He lives by his Wit, and perhaps it ſhall coſt thee a ſhilling or two before thou get him; but what's that, when large ſums are daily given for Rogues that are Tranſported before they have play'd halfe ſo many pretty pranks as he hath done.

But I have the *Engliſh Rogue*, ſay you, and what need of a *French* one? In truth I can give no better anſwer to this objection then the common one; it is the Faſhion, and He's the better company for Ladies, and was it not ſo in the old Romans time, when they did *Omnia Græcè*.

In a word, 'tis this hath made me put him forth, and expoſe him to the publick view: for though

though I have calculated his Nativity, and find that this off-spring of idle hours is born to no good Fortune, but to be laught at and jeer'd: yet hang him, burn him, I ſhall never pitty him, he's a *French ROGUE.*

But hold, you have him not all, pray be not ſo uncharitable as to condemn him by halfs, there is ſomthing remains beſides what is here contained, and thy kind reception of this may be an encouragement to the continuation of it, and the manifeſting the reſt.

Farewel.

Upon

Upon his FRIEND the Author of the *French* ROGUE.

THE Man that burnt the Temple got a name
Immortal, even as he that built the same;
Yet he did ill, by how much more ought we
To raise his Merit in our Elogie;
That onely paints out Vice, but paints it so
That Virtue in such Cloaths might freely go.
Such Wit and such Invention here I find,
That if I judge according to my mind,
Virtue looks well; yet I am forc'd to say,
Night-Pictures *are as good as those of* Day.

THE

THE FRENCH ROGUE.

CHAP. I.

His Education at Callais *in* Picardy, *at a Farmers-House not far from the Sea, and what Pranks he plaid there in his Infancy.*

I is a Wise Son, they say, *that knows his own Father*; but for my part, I knew neither of those that had given me life; till having lived my first Seven years in a Farmers-House at *Callais*, not far from the Sea; my

Courage increaſing with my Years, and my Nature daily manifeſting it ſelf more and more, did plainly evidence that I was not derived from the meaneſt Parents. I fought daily in the Street, upon ſmall or no occaſions; yet always came off with ſo much victory, that I was feared as much by the Neighboring Children, as I was complained of by their Parents. This cauſed me many Blows and Reproaches from the Old Man, who pretended he kept me on Charity, not knowing ſo much as my Father or Mother: Therefore I carried my deſigns more cloſely afterwards, not as before I had done by Open-Wars, but by Secret-Policy, which ſeemed naturally to be annexed to my Valour. Sometimes under pretence to play with thoſe that had any ways wronged or abuſed me, I accompanied them to ſome old Barn, a good diſtance from the Houſe, there would I ſhut them in, and leave them; that ſometimes they loſt their Dinners, ſometime their Suppers; nay, many ſtaid all Night ſore an hungred and afraid. Again, I would entice them to go with me to a ſmall Arm of the Sea to waſh their Feet, where making as if I fell off the Bank, I would

pull

full Three or four in after me; so sweet was revenge to my tender age. A thousand such like Pranks, which either my wit could devise, or occasion offered, I played every day: One amongst the rest I shall not omit, which will not seem altogether unpleasant to the Reader; and yet be very necessary for the prosecution of my Story.

Remembring by my self some Blows I had received of my Foster-father, by the Complaints of his Son, a Child much of my bigness and age, I resolved to shew him no less kindness, then I had to the rest of my abusive Companions; yet I was much pusled to effect it: For beside that, he was the Darling, and onely Child of his Mother, she also hated me, being an untoward Boy; so that I was not so often with him, as the other Children of the Neighborhood, and consequently had the less opportunity to plague him, and bring my desire to pass; which nevertheless I brought to pass by these means. A Gentleman, Son to the great *Nostrodamus*, so much renowned for his Prophecies, by name *Cæsar Nostrodamus*, an acquaintance of the Farmers, living some miles distant

from our Village, came one day to the Houſe to ſee us, when I by chance, ſent on ſome ſmall errand, croſt the Room where he was. He either taken with my Complexion, which was Sweeter, or Stature, which was greater then Children uſe to be of my age; or moved by the skill he had in Phyſiognomy, to paſs his judgment on me, calls me back, and no ſooner looked on me, but told my Foſter-father, That I had in me, both the *French Mercury*, and the *Engliſh Saturn*: I underſtood not at preſent that dark ſaying. He added alſo, That I reſembled much in Feature, a fair Gentlewoman living at *Bologne*, and married to an Old Merchant, and could be judged to be no other bodies Child then hers, were ſhe not accounted by her friends barren. The Farmer, I perceived, was ſomething puzzled at his words, but at laſt told him, He was wholly ignorant of my Parentage, and that he kept me more for my ingenuity and comely Feature, then any knowledge he had of my Birth and Deſcent. The Learned Man would have ſaid more, but the Farmer conſcious of a Truth which you ſhall hear hereafter; to divert the diſcourſe, calls up his own Son,

to

to ſee likewiſe if *Noſtradamus* would foretel any thing concerning him. He jeſting, ſaid, That when I loſt, he ſhould find; and that he ſhould get more by his folly, then I by my wit. Nevertheleſs he gave me * Five pence to encourage me, being an Orphan; and ſaid, Here, buy what you deſire moſt. I thanked him in better words, and with more civility then he could well expect from a Clown of my years; which increaſed his admiration ſo much the more, and ſo I left him.

* *Une piece de cinq ſous.*

CHAP. II.

The proſecution of the foregoing Story, Cæſar Noſtradamus's Prophecy, verified concerning the French Rogue, and the Farmers Son.

GOing down then to play with my Maſter's Son, I told him I knew of a great Nut-tree there by, whither, if he would go with me, we might ſtore our ſelves with Fruit enough to banquerupt,

our Companions (for it was our cuſtom then, as the *Old Romans* did, *Ludere par impar*) He as greedy of this booty as I ſeemed to be, or you may imagine Children are, went out with me; but inſtead of what I promiſed, I brought him to ſeveral Ditches and deep Pits, whence Gravel and Chalk had been dug; till at length, finding one fit for my purpoſe, unſeen by him, I threw in my Five pence, then feigning, that I diſcovered a piece of Money in the bottom of the Pit, I pretended, if I went down, I would have all; but he challenged half for being with me when I found it: At laſt, by my Propoſition we agreed, That he which went down ſhould have Three pence, the other Two pence; for I aſſured him, as well I might, it was a *Cinq ſous* in the Pit. Beſides, I being the ſtronger, pretended to be better able to pull and help him out of the Pit; for I knew he could not aſcend without me. But he was no ſooner in, then I ran away, crying out, as though one would have beat me. This hapned before Dinner. I came home and dined with the Servants, and by reaſon the Farmer and his Wife dined above with the Stranger,

Stranger, Whether they thought their Son was below, or the Servants that he was above; he was not miſt for the preſent, till towards night, that the Gentleman before-mentioned, went away; who again ſeeing me, asked me, What I had bought? I anſwered, A young fool, and had put him in a Cage to learn him more wit. He laughed heartily at my expreſſions, but without farther examination, having ſome miles to go, took his leave. The Farmers Wife ſoon after inquired for her Son, I went out of the way on purpoſe, that I might not be quſtioned where I left him; but it fell out happily, That one paſſing by that way had helped him out, and he came in crying, and complaining to his Parents of what had happned. I was called and examined, I pretended the Man, whole Field it was, would have beat me for coming there, which he could not but know, having heard me cry out; and that I would have told her, but that I could not come to her, being above at Dinner with the Stranger; beſides, I thought he could eaſily have got out. With ſuch like excuſes, for my Eloquence was nothing inferior to my Policy

in ſuch matters, I cleared my ſelf. Then were we made good friends again by dividing the *Cinq ſous*; whereof he for his folly had Three pence, and I which loſt it had Two pence; which made true the Gentlemans Prophecy of us in the firſt Chapter, *That when I loſt, he ſhould find*; and, *That he ſhould get more by his folly, then I by my wit*, which hapned in the diviſion of the *Cinq ſous*. Now becauſe I have made mention of *Caſar Noſtradamus*, Son to the great *Aſtronomer*, I ſhall make bold to inſert briefly a true Prophecy of his Fathers, though not concerning the preſent matter, yet no leſs pleaſant as follows.

CHAP. III.

A Pleaſant Prophecy of the Great Aſtronomer Noſtradamus *fulfilled, by way of digreſsion.*

IT hapned that the famous *Michael Noſtradamus*, Phyſitian to *Charles* the Ninth of *France*, and the beſt *Aſtronomer* of his age, being in *Lorrain* in the Caſtle

of *Faim*, belonging to the Lord of *Florinville*, Walking one day with the ſaid Lord in the Yard, ſaw two little Pigs, one White, the other Black: Whereupon the Lord inquired of *Noſtradamus* in jeſt, *What would become of theſe Two Pigs.* He anſwered preſently, *We ſhall eat the Black, and the Woolf ſhall eat the White.* The Lord *Florinville* intending to make him a lier, did ſecretly command the Cook to dreſs the White for Supper; the Cook then killed the White one, dreſt it, and ſpitted it ready to be roſted, when it ſhould be time; in the mean while having ſome buſineſs out of the Kitchin, a young tame Woolf came in, and eat up the Buttocks of the White Pig that was ready to be roſted: The Cook perceiving what was done, and fearing his Maſters anger, killed the Black one and dreſt it, and ſent it up at Supper. The Lord then merry and ignorant of what had hapned, *Well Doctor*, ſaid he, *we are now eating of the White Pig in ſpight of Fate.* *Not ſo ſaid* Noſtradamus, *I will wage, that it is the Black one upon the Table.* The Wager laid, the Cook was ſent for, and examined, who related all that had hapned, with much

much contentment and pleaſure to the Gueſts.

CHAP. IV.

How he ſerved a Butcher that had offended two of his Companions in his abſence.

BY this time I had gained by my Courage and Policy, that aw over the reſt of my Play-fellows, that I ſeemed rather their Commander then Companion; and the biggeſt of them deſpiſed not my Counſel, but rather ſought my help in their deſigns. It fell out one day, That a Ruſtick-Butcher driving ſome Swine before him in a narrow Dirty-lane, met two of my Companions, who deſiring him to ſtay till they were paſt a place more Muddy then the reſt, ſtopt the Herd. But he with the more vehemency drove them on, inſomuch, That one fell down in the Mire, and was trampled on; the other by leaping over a Ditch into the next Field, fell down and received ſome ſmall hurt. They came afterwards by our Houſe home, and relating to me all that was paſt, deſired

desired my help against their Enemy. I councelled them to go home and change their Cloaths, and return with speed to me, who in the mean time would find out some way to revenge. This I did, that they being clean, and in other habits, might not be known by the Butcher, or in the least suspected. In the mean time, I drove some of our Sheep together with their Lambs, excepting one Lamb, supposed to have been stoln or eat by the Woolf a week before, into the same Lane, by which I knew the Butcher must return. Then meeting with my Companions, we stood a good distance off the Flock, expecting our Enemies return. We no sooner espied him, but we ran to our House not far distant, crying, *A Rogue was stealing the Lambs in the narrow Road.* We had then at home two lusty young men belonging to the Old Farmer, who running out presently with long Poles, without farther inquiry, knocked him down, and hauled him to the Magistrate; where we being brought, according to agreement testified, *That he had driven the Lambs into a straight place, and was laying hold on them, either to kill or carry them away alive.*

Our

Our words as of innocent and harmleſs Children, were taken before all his excuſes; who being found to be a Butcher that ſold to the Ships, was much ſuſpected. Being examined likewiſe, *What he did that ways*; he related, *That he was returning from driving a Herd of Swine to ſuch a place, and had never been that way but once the week before*; which was much about the time our Lamb was loſt. I preſently related the loſs of it to the Magiſtrate; this alſo the two young men affirmed; ſo that he being convinced of what he was not guilty, was forced to pay for our Lamb that was loſt, and go away contented with the ſore blows he had received, without the leaſt pitty of the hearers.

CHAP. V.

An ingenious Device, whereby he rob'd the Old Mans Orchard where he lived.

IT was about the time when Fruit grew ripe, that my Appetite could not be ſatisfied without the enjoyment of them, yet

yet ſtill I obſerved this general rule in all my Actions, to aim at the beſt: And thereupon, ſeeing in the Garden a *bon Chreſtian* Pear-tree, I affected moſt, as being a forbidden Fruit, (*Ruimus in vetitum nefas*) for every Pear was numbred, and the unkind winds blew not one off; whoſe place the Old Man could not find; whoſe loſs he mourned for, as much as thoſe few Hairs Old Age bereft him of. Beſides, the Wall was high, inſomuch, that the very Sea-men who had oft attempted it, could never ſcale it. Theſe Reaſons deterred me from taking of them, for no other could be ſuſpected, eſpecially ſince I oftentimes uſed to play in this Garden. I deferred my deſign therefore for the preſent, till one day walking in the Fields, where were many young Oaken Trees full of Acorns, I perceived many Swine rubbing themſelves at the bottom of thoſe Trees; I knew not the reaſon, till approaching near, I perceived the Acorns to drop, which they preſently devoured and began to rub againſt the Tree to ſhake down more. This ſubtility of the Bruit Beaſts, put a Period to my deſign in hand. For when I came home, I left

the

the Garden door open for two or three days on purpose that our Swine in the adjoyning Yard might enter. Finding one at length in the Garden, I climb'd the Tree, gathered most of the Fruit, and hid the best in a place I had designed for that purpose. I gave the Hog so much other Fruit in the Garden, that whosoever had seen him, would by his Belly have guessed him the author of the mischief. This done, and my Pockets emptied, for fear of a search, I ran in crying, *That the Swine by rubbing himself against the Tree, had shaken down and devoured the best Pears, notwithstanding all I could do to drive him away.* This made the Old Man chafe and run faster then ordinarily he could into the Garden, where finding the Swine under the Tree devouring some Relicks I had left him, suspected nothing of the Plot, but drove him away, as sorrowful as he came in angry, with threats onely to kill the Hog at *Christmas*. This puts me in minde of an Old Monks Verses to his Pig on the like purpose.

If thou wer't big,
My little Pig,

Then

Then thou ſhould'ſt die.
For why?
Becauſe of thy Voracity.
At Chriſtmas *ye*
(The Pig cry'd we)
Will bigger be.
And then ſhalt die, when thou art big,
Becauſe thou wer't more ſawce then Pig.

CHAP. VI.

How he deceived a Merchant.

IT was not long after the Preſſing of our Grapes (for we had a ſmall Vineyard belonging to our Farm, enough to ſerve our Family, and pleaſure our Friends) when the Old Man was pleaſed to give me a new Suit, *Chriſtmas* then approaching, which we celebrate Ten days ſooner then here in *England*. Another of my Companions, Son to a miſerable, covetuous Uſurer, had alſo new Cloaths at the ſame time. Our want of Money was alike alſo; mine, being an Orphan, was great; his being Son to a covetuous Father, was no leſs. I therefore who could never

never be confined to now and then a penny, often tempted him to endeavor ſomething on his Fathers Bags: He hating the Coveteouſneſs of his rich Father, was willing to have done it, yet ſtill deferred the performance. I met one day a Merchant knocking at our door, who having heard of our Vineyard, deſired to buy ſome of our Wine for his own drinking on Ship-board. The Farmer told him, the quantity of Wine which he made was ſo ſmall, that he never ſold, but kept it for his own uſe, or the pleaſure of his Friends. This opened the door to my deſires; for he was no ſooner gone, but I found out my Companion, told him, *I had a brave deſign, if he could by any means help me with ſome Bottles.* He anſwered after ſhort conſideration, *He had the Key of his Covetuous Fathers Seller, who truſted none but him; and that the next morning before he was up, we ſhould ſearch.* According to this appointment we came, and found all full but two great Leather Bottles, both containing about Seven Gallons; theſe we conveyed into an old Stable remote from the Houſe, and filled them about Three Gallons apiece, with Water

up

up to their necks which contained about a Quart, then thrusting down some Rags, we immediately poured Pitch over them, leaving room onely for a Quart of Wine, which I soon procured at home and filled them.

This done, I enquired the Merchants name, and got some knowledge of him: I then went to him as sent from the Farmer, who, I pretended, was sorry he had not sold him some of his Wine, since presently after his departure he was informed by a Gentleman both of his Quality and Countrey, but had now sent him two Bottles full containing seven Gallons, which not being able to bring, I left with my companion at such a place, whither if he would send two of his men he might have them. The Merchant having seen me at the Farmer's door, suspected nothing of the Knavery, but thanking and intreating me civilly, sent his men, who returned not long after with my companion: I told him then, as well he knew, the Wine was very new but very rich, and that if he kept it some time it would prove very well; he nevertheless tasted it, then stop'd the Bottles and sealed them: we

returned well paid, and he ſatisfy'd, for we gave him no reaſon to complain with the Poet.

Cum peterem mixtum vendidit ille merum.

CAP. VII.

How he cheats the Farmer with whom he dwelt, of Twenty pounds.

I Had now entred the Mine and began to find out the uſe of Silver, and the way to ſpend it as faſt as I got it, which ſet my wits every day to ſeek for more. I caſt my Eyes into every door and on every perſon, nothing was rich, nothing precious, but I had a vehement deſire to it, this made me attempt many things in vain, for want of faithful Confederates, as Plate, Jewels, and the like things of great value.

At length having obſerved the great Trade my Maſter drove with ſeveral ſtrange Merchants for victualing their ſhips, and that great parcels of Money were oft brought home before him by our men, for ſometimes he was treated and ſtaid much

much longer. I got ſeveral ſuch bags of ſeveral bigneſs, and filled them with Peble ſtones and Lead to a juſt weight. Theſe I kept till occaſion offered it ſelf, which was on this wiſe.

A Spaniſh Merchant having bought many Swine of the old Man, invited him and his Family to a dinner on Shipboard: the Money in the mean time one of our men brought home by ſeveral parcels and charged me to ſtay till he brought the reſt: he was no ſooner gone but I emptied one, containing about 20 pounds of Engliſh Money, filled it with my Pebbles, and pieces of Lead, and left it whence firſt I took it; the Man return'd not long after with the reſt of the Money, and the old Man, his Wife, and his Son with him. I was then playing before the door, and gave no cauſe of ſuſpition, for oftentimes Money had been brought into our Houſe on this wiſe. The old Farmer put up his bags in his Cloſet, till ſome days after having occaſion to pay out ſome Money for Cattle, amongſt others, he brought down this Bag, when finding the deceit, and not miſtruſting the fidelity of his Servant whom he had found faith-

ful in more important matters, could attribute it to nothing but the Merchants ſubtilty, and with grief was forced to put it up for a Spaniſh trick.

CHAP. VIII.

He looſeth his Money by a pleaſant accident but recovereth it again by a witty ſtratagem.

I Was now ſtockt for many days, had not a ſiniſter chance interrupted my felicity; for my caution was ſuch, leſt I ſhould be found out, that I never reſted till I had privately removed my Treaſure out of the Houſe, which I did one day into an old rotten Tree half a mile diſtant from it: Thence as from *Fairy-land* I fetcht whatſoever I needed, and by giving ſome ſmall Gifts to my Comerades, either whoſe Courage or Policy I intended to make uſe of, I gained the good eſteem and opinion of all, but before I had enjoyed the fourth part of my Treaſure, it fell out that the owner of the Tree, had cut it down with many others for Chriſt-

Christmass Fuel: Never did the *Dryades* bewail the loss of the Sacred Oak *Eresicthon* fel'd, as I did the ruine of this Tree, my hopes were cancel'd, and I could have hanged my self had any Trees been left in the place.

Χρυσὸν ἀνὴρ εὑρὼν ἔλιπε βρόχον αὐταρ ὁ χρυσόν,
ὃν λιπεν, οὐχ εὑρὼν, ἧψεν, ὃν εὗρε βρόχον.

but I found none; then remembring what I had heard in the Chimney corner, of the Fryer that hid his Gold with this Super scription; *Hic Deus est*, but found next time when he came, *Resurrexit*, and an empty Chest, I was a little comforted by the memory of it, and breaking out into these words

(Since Sacred Tree thou wer't my Mammon's Cell,
I did believe that Gods in Woods did dwell.
And therefore I don't blame him if he went
With thee, to see thy Pyre was his intent.
He lov'd thee well that follow'd thee to death,
And I'le love him as long as I have breath.)

I resolved never to rest till I had either found out the owner and recovered my

Money, or by ſome ſtratagem got as much of his in lieu of it.

I went therefore the next day to ſee firſt if the owner would ſell the Tree, but I heard it was already cut in pieces and piled up for Fuel. This therefore not ſucceeding, I went inſtantly to the Man, faining that I had dream'd for ten nights together, which was then the number of my years; *That in ſuch a Tree there was a Treaſure hid, in ſuch a place, deſcribing both the ſhape of the Bag, and the colour of the Strings:* I added further, *That an old Woman appeared to me in my ſleep the tenth night,* which was that night before the Tree was cut, ſaying in theſe words, *I am ſorry, Poor Orphan Child, thou haſt not had the wiſdom to goe take and enjoy the Treaſure I laid up for thee, in the place whereof I have often admoniſhed thee; nevertheleſs if thou wilt at length believe me and goe to the owner, he ſhall certainly reſtore it, or be ſo plagued, that his death ſhall be more deſirable then his life, Farewel.* The Countrey man ſtrangely amazed at my words, and true deſcription of the Place, Tree, Bag, and all other circumſtances, confeſſed more out of fear then honeſty,

honeſty, he found ſuch a Bag in the ſame Tree, and therein the value of Five pounds, and thereupon gave me ſo much, who ſeeming ignorant of twice as much that he kept behind, thanked him and returned home well ſatisfied for the preſent. But I let ſlip no occaſion for the recovering of the reſt, for that ſame evening I ſent one of my faithful companions to ſtrew Henbane which I had prepared amongſt his Poultry in the yard, and the night being ſomewhat dark, I went my ſelf immediately with others of my companions to his Farme, where finding a young Colt of his in a Cloſe adjoyning to the Houſe, we forced his mouth open and put a ſtrong gag therein, many ſheep we ſerved the like cruelty, and to a fat Hog in a Stie we gave ſome Lees of Wine that I had brought for that purpoſe, and ſo departed till the next morning; then before day I ſtole from home and returning to the Cattle, ungag'd their mouth's, but the poor beaſts by the miſery they had endured all night, could not graze at eaſe in the morning, after their accuſtomed manner, but opening their mouth wide, after ſtrange poſtures

came bleating towards the House, so that passengers stood staring on them at a distance, judging them to have been bewitched: the Poultry likewise some reeling, some dead, some drooping, would have moved pity in any one; but above all the Swine in the Stie who had greedily devoured the Wine Lees, lay along so drunk, that all adjudged it to be dead. These things seemed like so many Prodigies, and the report drew all the neighborhood thither, insomuch that the poor man was almost distracted, then relating to his friends what he thought was the reason of this misfortune, was by all advised to search for me presently, and give me the residue of the Money: I was not long to be sought for in such an occasion, for I was there present as one drawn by the news, and pretended by my feigned Tears in my Eyes to be very sorry for his misfortune; he laying all the fault to his own dishonesty, gave me the residue to a farthing; and the next day when he saw the Cattle recover their stomachs, his Hog alive again, which seemed dead to all appearance; for by this time the intoxicating strength of the Wine was spent,

ſpent, and ſome few onely of his Poultry dead, he rejoyced exceedingly, That he had eſcaped ſo well.

CHAP. IX.

Two Cheats he puts upon his Maſter, an Engliſh Gentleman.

I Had hitherto kept my treaſure from the knowledge of the Farmer, with whom I lived; but the noiſe of it now, was ſo ſpred abroad, that it reached his ear; nor was any Child in the Town, ignorant of my good fortune. He therefore commanded me, being young, and one that knew not the good uſe of Money, to commit my Wealth to his cuſtody: This grieved me much, though indeed I did but render him his own; then conſidering my ſelf, as miſerable now I had Money, as I was when I had it not, I found the Miſer ſpake true of his Gold.

Thy want is grief,
Thy preſence no relief.

This

This was my condition then, but like the growing Palm, I roſe with the more reluctancy againſt the weight that oppreſsed, endeavoring daily to be at my own Liberty, the Old Man ſeeing my inclination was to a looſe life, which in all probability would never ſucceed well; and having this parcel of Money of mine in his hands, was reſolved to lay it out to my good, eſpecially ſince the evil that hapned to the other Man, paſſed every where amongſt the people for a great judgment of God. He thereupon reſolved, either to bind me Apprentice, or furniſh me with Cloaths and Neceſſaries fitting me to wait on ſome Gentleman, putting the two ways of life to my choice. The latter pleaſed my ranging fancy beſt; for I could not be contented with a bit and a knock; and my Soul was to large to be confined to the narrow limits of a Shop and Yard.

I did not long want a Maſter, for an Engliſh Gentleman newly landed, wanted a Lackey that ſhould underſtand both Languages, *Engliſh* and *French*; the latter of theſe was natural to me, the firſt by oft converſation with *Engliſhmen*, which

which were always in our Haven, I had pretty well gained: So that this making for me, and my Feature and Age concurring, he took me to be his Servant for Eight Piſtols *Per annum*; which amounts in *Engliſh* Money to Six pounds. I had ſerved him three quarters of a year without conſiderable damage, except the ſtealing his Wine, and ſuch things as I could make merry with amongſt my old Comrades in his abſence, till at laſt I had gained ſo much of his good will, that I dared preſumptuouſly to abuſe it; which was on this wiſe. My Maſter hapned to make a journey to *Deep*, where he had Goods in a Ship that was to unload there, which gave me opportunity to ſearch in every hole, and to open all his Packets I could come at, amongſt the reſt, I found ſeveral pieces of Silks, whereof I choſe one, and bound up the Packet again ſo exactly, that the moſt curious eye could not have perceived the ſtring to have been ſtirred.

This ſtopt my appetite till ſuch time my Maſter came home, who amongſt the reſt of his Goods, brought two good *Engliſh* Horſes, wherewith he intended to travel

travel farther into our Countrey, I thought two Horſes too much for one Man, and reſolved to rid him of one, as faſt as I could, without giving him ſuſpition of my infidelity. My Maſter having uſe but for one of his Horſes, deſired the Old Farmer, with whom I dwelt, for there they were kept, to let the other run in ſome Paſture Ground of his; but it was ſo well fenced for fear of the Poor Seamen, who were continually lurking about the Town, to ſteal and pilfer what they meet next, that it excluded all poſſibility of getting him thence undiſcovered.

There was one Villain more notable then the reſt then at *Callais*, for want of Money to tranſport himſelf to his Native Country. Pretending therefore occaſion to go ſee ſome ſick Friend of mine, I begged leave of my Maſter, which he eaſily granted. Then went I to a poor comrade of mine, not acquainting him in the leaſt with my deſign, but deſiring him to lend me the worſt Cloaths he had, becauſe being to go by ſuch a Road to ſuch a place, I feared leſt I might be ſtript by ſome Villain of thoſe I wore. He ſoon granted me ſo ſmall a requeſt, and I

changed

changed there my rich Cloaths, for those that were scarce estimable, χρυσεὰ χαλκέιων. Thus arrayed and unknown by them that saw me, I went to the Sea side in search of the person above-mentioned, who was wont to be there to help load and unload Goods brought in and carried out of the Port. I soon found him, for indeed he had no other house, nor shelter, then what the Shore by day, and the Rocks by night afforded. I had prepared my Speech with all the rhetorick I had to perswade; sometimes tempting him to this theft, by representing to him his miserable condition in a strange Country, and how great his felicity would be, if he were in his own, which by this one action he might easily procure. Then I proposed all the probability I had to effect it secretly, That I knew the House very well, the Field, every passage and turning thereabout: Lastly, That it remained on his part onely to get a receiver ready, when I should bring it the next morning to the Sea side, in such a Creek, about Two Miles from the Great Haven. He needed not much prompting to such a wickedness, that would prove, in all probability, so

ad-

advantageous to his obtaining his liberty; nor was he long before he found a Receiver, being as I told you before, well skilled in this ſort of Knavery. Beſides, gain is ſo ſweet, and the thirſt of it ſo great, that there are few Ship-Maſters ſo honeſt, who will not for its ſake, or at leaſt under colour of obliging the Poor Seamen, whoſe caſe may happen to be theirs, buy any kind of ſtoln commodity. He bid me therefore, proſecute my deſign with the greateſt diligence and ſecrecy poſſible, and not to fail him at the place and time appointed the next day, where he would certainly expect me. I returned, changed my Cloaths, and came home: The next day, as I was wont every morning, I rid out the Horſe to breath him, but with far different intention; for he was never to return again to my Maſter. As ſoon as out of ſight, I reinveſted my ſelf with my rags, and rid directly to the place appointed. My comrade, on his ſide, had performed admirable diligence in preparing a Flemiſh Bark that was to ſet ſail that day, ready, and was already expecting my arrival. Things hitherto fell out exceeding well, when one of our Neighbors paſſing by

by might have diſcovered all, had I not ſuddenly before he could ſee me, given the Horſe to my comrade to hold. This I did with intention, that if he took any knowledge of me, I might afterward pretend the Horſe was forced from me, which I could not do, when I ſhould be known to have had it in my hand, and he but on foot. Nevertheleſs he paſſed by, not diſcerning who I was, being clouded in ſuch pittiful diſguiſe. We ſoon agreed with the Maſter for our price, by ſelling it at an under rate; for the Horſe, being worth about Twenty four Piſtols, which amounts in *Engliſh* Money to Eighteen pounds. I had for my ſhare Six Piſtols, and my Confederate as many. So he ſailed away well ſatisfied to his own Country, and I having hid my Money in the Field, with hopes of better ſucceſs then I had of my Firſt Treaſure, mentioned in the Eighth Chapter, Came crying home to my Maſter, who admired much my long abſence; but wondred more to ſee me come home in ſuch Rags, on Foot, and with Tears in my Eyes. Yet I ſo well feigned my grief, That I moved the Heart of the good Gentleman, he bid me there-

fore

fore relate, without fear, what had befel me, if possibly it might be remedied. Then intermixing a thousand sighs and tears, which the moisture of my tender age supplied me with, I began on this manner.

It was the unhappiness of your Poor Servant, and then I cryed, to ride out your Horse this Morning as I was wont; and then I sighed. But alas! And here I would have left off, and cryed again, had he not cheered me up, and bid me manfully to relate the whole Misfortune: A certain Villain, whether a stranger, or no, I cannot tell; but I am sure he was a Rogue, came to me, and taking opportunity at the goodness of your Horse, and my Cloaths; as likewise, my weakness, being but a childe, laid hold on my Bridle, pulled me off, and bound me, till having brought me to the Sea-shore, he first shipped your Horse; then indeed did I expect to follow, and never to have seen my good Master more, or my Foster-Father; but whether in compassion of my tears, or that he knew not how to dispose of me, stript me of my good Cloaths, and putting me on these ugly Rags, bid

me

me go learn to ſhift for my ſelf. And what ſhall I do for Cloaths! Theſe Rags! Well, my Boy, ſaid he, and could not but laugh, ſeeing my pretty Innocency in preferring my Cloaths of ſmall value, before the loſs of his Horſe, I ſhall provide thee better Cloaths. And thus by my diſſembling, I ſafely did conceal and bring my wickedneſs to its deſired effect.

So Sinon *once the* Trojans *did perſwade,*
To take the fatal Horſe the Grecians *made.*
My ragged habit like to his appears,
Such are my Sighs, and ſuch my feigned Tears.
In all things we agree, excepting this,
I took my Maſters Horſe, he gave them his.

CHAP. X.

His Night-Meetings with his old Companions, with his witty devices to rob his Master of his Wine, and Neighbors of their Poultry.

MY kind Master soon turned my Rags, into such Cloaths as were worthy of the quality of the person I served; and I went about my business with the same diligence I had formerly used, meaning thereby to rub out whatsoever suspition my Master might have of my infidelity. I was always at his Elbow at home, and took opportunity for satisfying my desires when he was abroad. Then did I meet with my old Companions, and according to every ones secret Conspiracies; some brought Pigs, some Capons, Turkies, Geese, and whatever good cheer, either by stealth, or otherwise they could get. The procuring of Wine fell to my share, by reason of the poverty of their Friends, and the richness of my Master, who kept store of Wine in his Seller; yet his care of it was so great,

great, that it forced me to invent many ways to obtain such large quantities, as our frequent meetings required. But our Wine being in Earthen-Vessels of two or three Gallons, gave me opportunity to break them several times, when I had almost exhausted them; and then when I had just occasion to go down next into the Celler, I would speedily return, crying, That either the newness, or the strength of the Wine had broken such a Vessel, and if speedy care were not taken, the rest were in the like danger. He put his Wine at length according to our Countrey fashion, in great Leather-Bottles, which are indeed more sure and more commodiously Portable then those of Earth. But alas, when the force proceeded not from an inward, but an external cause, this could in no wise secure them. For though they were new, and of strong Leather, such as could not be broken or burst by the strength of the Wine; yet I soon found out another invention with a Bodkin, so to prick their sides till they lost their deareſt Blood, and that the wound appeared to be the knawing of the Rats. For by reason of the newness of

the Leather, and ſomething wherewith it was greeſed on the out-ſide that ſmelt ſtrong, it could not have eaſily been perceived to have been done by any other cauſe.

This trade continued ſo long undiſcovered till our Seller was almoſt full with empty Bottles; then I dared to proceed no farther, but pretending want of Wine at that time; I changed my Office in our company, and took upon me to procure Poultry.

My firſt adventure was in a Neighbors Hen-houſe, which was at the end of a Barn, in their Yard; the one ſide towards their Houſe, the other towards the Fields; the latter I attempted, broke in through ſome thin Boards, killed ſo many, till by their often fluttering, notice was given to the owners by their Dog in the Yard, That the Fox was in the Barn; the People ran out with Lights and Staffs to the Door, but I had ſecured that, by ſtopping the Key-hole with Pebble-ſtones and Sand, and had time enough to retreat with my Booty in ſafety, having not far to go to our Club; where I had no ſooner related the proceſs of my theft, but I

was

was entertained by one of my companions with a ſtory no leſs pleaſant. He, watching about the door (for he had knowledge of my intention) no ſooner perceived the People to be run out to catch the Fox in the Barn, but he ſlipt into the Houſe, where a fat Gooſe was roaſting by the Fire; this he took, Spit and all, and brought it away undiſcovered, which made me ſay,

Poor Fools, to think your Gooſe was ſure
In open Houſe, when Locks could not ſecure
Your Hens. Know then the Fox loves both,
A Roaſted Gooſe, as well as Cock in Broth.

CHAP. XI.

Two notable Pranks he Plays at an Inn in Callais.

THe pleaſant mirth I found at the aforeſaid Meetings, and the leiſure I had to follow them, by reaſon of my Maſters buſineſs, which often called him

abroad; and the good ſucceſs of my firſt attempt, ſpurred me on to a ſecond adventure of the like nature.

There was an Inn not far off, which for the accommodation of Merchants and Strangers that arrived at our Port, was always furniſhed with great ſtore of delicate Viands. Hither I came accidentally to drink with my companion that in the ſtealing away my Maſters Horſe, had lent me his Cloaths, and was conducted by the ſervant of the Houſe into the Kitchin to the Fire. The Chimney was ſo large as to contain one in each Corner, and the Weather being ſomething cold. I placed my ſelf there, where caſting up my eyes accidently, I eſpied great number of Neats Tongues; and then pretending the Fire to be over-hot, I deſired another Room, and called up for more Wine: Afterwards I imparted my minde to my companion, and the deſire I had to thoſe Tongues, nor was my invention far from my deſire to obtain them; for I preſently agreed, That I would feign my ſelf in a Swound, and that while the People came up to my ſuccor; he under colour to go fetch my Friends, might carry away what he pleaſed,

sed. The Plot took well, for I so acted the Dead-man, that I employed all the People of the House to fetch me to life. My companion was, in the mean time, as nimble as I seemed immoveable, and had conveyed away, under his Coat, six of the best; and then returned in great haste, that he could not find my Master; at that, the best way was to send me home in a Chair. But at his return I seemed to come to my self, and by degrees grew better and better. They would have sent their Man with me home, but not desiring his company, I said, *That I had been used from my infancy to have such fits; and was as well after them, as before them; being troubled only for that time they came on me.* Then paying my reckoning, with thanks for their pains, in my recovery, I took my leave. But the half dozen proved so well, that provoking my appetite, they bred in me a lust for more, and caused me to attempt the rest, which was on this wise.

Passing often before the Door, I saw one day a great tumult there, and approaching, perceived that two Sea-men fell out with the Host; who seemed not

ſatisfied for a Dinner they had had that day, they cryed, *They were cheated, and would pay no more*; at laſt it came to blows; and the two Men, oppreſſed with the multitude of Townſmen that took the Inn-keepers part, paid by ſuffering what remained of their reckoning, and ſo departed diſcontented, as you may imagine, at ſuch open ſhame. I went therefore that ſame Night, and fired a little Barn belonging to the Houſe, and went my ways, till ſuch time the Fire blazed out, then came I with my companions, as moſt of the Neighborhood did, to ſee that ſad accident. For though indeed there was no farther danger then of the Barn, being ſeparated from the reſt of the Houſe, yet ſuch is the fear of people in ſuch a calamity, that their Doors were all opened, and they began to remove their Goods all out of their Houſes. Here we had opportunity enough, whileſt they minded to pack up their beſt Goods, for what we intended, and beſides got a conſiderable booty out of many other Houſes; eſpecially the Poultrey ſeemed to be vaniſhed away in the fright, for we had conveyed away above Twenty Chick-

ens,

ens, and Twelve Geese and Turkies, which afterwards we enjoyed.

CHAP. XII.

A very ingenious device whereby he clears two Seamen taken on suspition to have set the Innkeepers Barn on fire.

THe Fire for want of more Fuel ended with the Barn, and the tumult was appeased till the next morning, then the Inn-keeper supposing, that it came by two Seamen, whom he had the day before injur'd, resolved to prosecute them, and thereupon made diligent search and inquiry after them, which he could easily doe being acquainted with most of the Merchants and Ship-masters that used our Port. He had no sooner apprehended them, but he brought them before the Magistrate, and swore against them, which caused them, notwithstanding their just excuses to expect the rigor of the Law in such cases. Having heard of these proceedings, I immediately went to the place of Judicature, and desired to be heard, which

which being permitted, I began in this wise.

GENTLEMEN,

Though none here is ignorant of the late Fire that seized on this mans Barn, yet the cause is totally hid from you. For it happens in such cases oftentimes, that by some foregoing passage we mistake the cause of the thing: So have I heard of a Gentleman that bought the Hat of a murdered Person for a new one ignorantly, and being afterwards found with it on his head, was prosecuted by the dead mans friends, and lost his life, *and these two poor men, strangers to you and me, because they quarrelled the day before with this man, are thought to be the Authors of what they never did, and to have revenged themselves on his House for the abuse done to their persons. This makes me bold in their justification, being innocent of that sad accident of which you shall know both the Author and the Cause, who hath not feared to offer himself to protect and set free the innocent. I was passing by your Barn, Sir, with a Torch in my hand, the night being obscure, in haste, and knockt it against the corner post, so that*

I left

I left some burning upon the side of it. For indeed my Childish simplicity had not yet furnished me with that caution to put it out, and my business called me away too hastily, for I found at my return the Barn in a blaze, which I ran to inform you of, but before I came it had discovered it self by its fearful operations. It was not therefore set on fire by Counsel or Conspiracy, but by accident; not by any envy these men intended, or revenge they desired, but by my negligence: inflict therefore the punishment you desire on the guilty offender, but let the innocent goe free; for I could suffer any thing patiently rather then endure to see so great injustice done to people that in no wise deserved it; and here I offer my body, for I am an unhappy Orphan, and can make no restitution by money or Goods, to suffer the penalty of my Crime. My Words and the Ardency wherewith I spake them, caused great admiration to the hearers; all applauded and wondred at me: the Inn-keeper heartily thanked me that had kept him from so great wickedness as he should have committed in putting two innocent men to death, and forgave me what I had done; and the Magistrate sent away the two

Seamen

Seamen free, and all went away with great content and admiration.

Now all's ſecure, the Fire's out, and you
Seamen, that felt the ſtorm but nothing knew,
Depart in peace, the worſt of danger's paſt.
So after a tempeſtuous Sea, at laſt
Our ſafety's ſeen, by Fire about the Maſt.

CHAP. XIII.

How he leaves Callais *and goes with his Maſter to* Diepe *in* Normandy, *thence to* Rouen, *and what hapened to him there.*

HItherto my good fortune crowned me with continual ſucceſs, and above all, my laſt adventure had brought my Maſter into ſo good an opinion of me, that he reſolved to take me with him in his Travails to *Diepe* and other parts of *France* that he intended to viſit. My roving mind as it always had a deſire to novelty, agreed with my Maſters propoſition; and the old Man my Foſter-Father, whether

whether willing to be rid of me, or thinking it might prove to my good, consented to it.

It was not long before we Landed at *Diepe*, a Haven-Town in *Normandy*, built on an Arm of the Sea, between two Hills, which secures the Haven, both from the violence of the Weather, and the attempts of Forein Enemies. The Town lies within these Mountains a quarter of a Mile up the Channel. On the top of the Hill is a strong Castle, commodiously seated, both to defend and command it. Here I saw one rarity I shall not omit, it was a Mans Head that had been found in an old Ruinated Wall, inclosed in a Pewter-vessel made for that purpose; it had continued there according to the inscription, Three Hundred years and more, yet the Flesh appeared firm, and retained the countenance of a Warrier with a great Scar, even from his Forehead to his Chin. This was all I saw there, and by reason of our short stay, could act nothing worthy of the relating.

Next day we set out for *Rouen*, my Master rid on his English Horse, but for my part, I could get none for Money, and so

ſo was forced to ride in a Chariot, where the dirt ſo plagued me, That I repented very much I had ſold my Maſters Horſe at *Callais* in *Picardy*; but bore it patiently as the reward of that injury. We arrived at laſt at *Rouen* in an old Inn, and for our Supper was brought up a Rabbet ſo tuff, that my Maſter could not eat it; then they brought us an old Hen, which was ſcarce eatable. This made me fear a change of Fortune, and that I was now to expect Miſery; for I had already found the want of the Horſe I ſo wickedly ſold, and had now before me ſuch a Supper, that I could ſcarce tare in pieces, which ſeemed to be a puniſhment for my theſts of Pullets.

The City *Rouen* is large, and very pleaſantly ſituated betwixt Mountains on three ſides, it contains Thirty two Pariſh Churches, beſides Abbeys and Religious Houſes, which cauſed my Maſter, whoſe buſineſs was onely curioſity, to ſtay two or three days. Inquiring out the rarities of the place, we were informed of a pretty Houſe in the Town, that a Gentleman, by name *Boniface*, of obſcure Parents, which had raiſed himſelf to a fortune in the

the Wars, had built to be an *Asylum* for his age, this we went purposely to view. It was built like a Half Moon, and the Wall that inclosed the Court before the Door, made a perfect Circle. On the outside, round the House, was a good Border of Ground, a dozen Yards square planted with most pleasant Flowers and choice Fruit; then a clear Moat well stored with Fish, which secured the rest. On a Gallery of the House, I read this Inscription, *Tentanda via amore & armis*, A Motto well agreeing with his fortunes, and seeing one that I took for good admonition, and resolved since I was ignorant of my descent, as he had been, to make him my example. My Master very much pleased with the House, was no less desirous to see this Gentleman, whose device he much admired; and thereupon knocked at the Door, and indeed we found, that though the outward appearance had promised much, yet very little in comparison to the Master, whom we found a person most generous and civil, something taller then the common sort of men, his visage was adorned with a grace, That though his age was great, shewed him plainly to

be

be both valiant and generous, he entertained us the whole Afternoon with the greateſt civility imaginable, underſtanding that my Maſter, was an Engliſhman (for he was of the ſame Nation) and forced us by his intreaties to ſtay Supper; where we had plenty both of coſtly Meats and Wine; till Supper being ended, he was pleaſed at my Maſters deſire to relate the Hiſtory of his life.

CHAP. XIV.

The pleaſant Hiſtory of Boniface *and* Clora.

IF happily the Fame of the Duke of *Biron* which I think is now ſpred over the whole world, hath reacht your ear; A man who at fourteen years old was Colonel of the Switzers in *Flanders*, a little after Marſhal of the Camp, then Marſhal General; at the Siege of *Amiens* he was ſole Lieutenant of his Majeſties forces, though there were many Princes of the Blood in the Army; and to compleat his greatneſs he was Peer of *France*,

and

and the Barony of *Biron* erected into a Dukedome, this valiant man drawing up his forces by the Sea ſide, ſaw an Engliſh Ship ſhot through in ſeveral places in a ſinking condition, yet the kinder waves ſeemed to take compaſſion of what it bore and drove it towards the ſhore; the Dukes curioſity was ſuch, as to ſend out a ſmall Boat, either to help her or bring her to the ſhore, if no perſon were alive in her that could give account of her misfortune; they brought back word there were ſeveral dead bodies in her, but the reſt ſeemed to have eſcaped in the Boat which was gone, and onely one Child alive which they had brought; the Duke took me in his Arms, and it ſeems at the ſight of his Armour I ſmiled, which cauſed him to ſay I ſhould certainly prove a valiant man, that in the midſt of ſuch fortune ſmil'd in his arms, and therefore admiring my ſtrange preſervation, as one that was reſerved by the Gods for great matters, and taking it for a good *omen* againſt his enemies, gave order to two of his men to carry me with ſpeed to a rich Citizen at *Paris* who ſhould educate me with his greateſt dili-

gence: thus was I brought up with the greateſt tenderneſs and care, as if the Duke had been my Father, and was inſtructed according to his order in all the ornaments both of body and mind; but I muſt confeſs my nature inclined more to the Battel then the Gown, and I ſo behaved my ſelf as to bear office under the Duke at the Siege of *Amiens*, being then ſixteen years old: but to relate the childiſh years of my Infancy, would but abuſe your patience, and loſe time, which would be better imployed in relating acts of greater moment; yet let me ſay thus much, without boaſting, I ſo improved my ſelf in all exerciſes of Body, and Mind, that this moſt noble Duke who was certainly one of the moſt Generous in the World, loved me with extraordinary kindneſs, and made me companion to his Couſin *Florus*, a young Lord of *France*; for though he was the handſomeſt youth I ever ſaw, and had an Air in his Countenance above the common ſort of Men, yet my Acts got me ſuch eſteem of all, that I ſeemed a companion moſt fit for his Quality: I gained indeed the love of the King for my ſervice

done

done him; the good opinion of the Duke for the ſame cauſe, and the inclination of the Ladies, as well for that reaſon as my Feature, which was fairer then to let me eſcape the eyes of the faireſt; ſo that in the infancy of my Servitude, as oft as I went from the Generous *Floras* upon any Complement to the Fair *Clora* his Siſter, ſhe would aske me a thouſand queſtions; ſometimes how I liked the Court of *France*, ſometimes how her Brother did, and how I liked ſuch a Lady, or ſuch a Lady, and many other pretty queſtions, That I eaſily obſerved ſhe was ſomething pleaſed with my company, for when the Generous *Floras* ſent any other, ſhe onely returned anſwer unto the Meſſage brought her, though indeed ſeldom any was imployed but I, for I always deſired the honour of that Service. Thus as long as Infancy laſted, I was the happieſt in the world, till my Sixteenth year, then I went with the Duke to the Siege of *Amiens*, where my Acts were beyond belief of all but the Illuſtrious Duke, who knew it was poſſible to be both young and valiant; for he himſelf at Fourteen, had been Lieutenant of the

Switzers in *Flanders*. I was not dealt with therefore as others who first goe into the World; but on the contrary, at our return from Battle, was Treated as a Man of Noble Extract.

The Beauteous *Clora*, for every minute seemed a thousand years till I saw her, held discourse with me in a more reserved way and less familiarity, though always with the same sweetness. At that time the Lord *Florus* came in and interrupted us, just as by a blush of mine she seemed to have discovered something of my Passion: I wondred much to see him so sad that was wont to be the most *debonaire* person alive, nay he had so much forgot himself, that he mist of his due respects to the company; this made us depart sooner then our company intended, and the Beauteous Lady, desired me very much to get out of her Brother, whom she most dearly loved, the cause of his grief; I that was willing to do any thing in her service, to have the opportunity to see her again, promised my utmost endeavour, both to satisfy her demands, and bring the Generous *Florus* out of his serious melancholly. 'Twas the next day early in

the

the morning, for he had taken but little rest that night, when he came to my Apartment, and since I was his dearest Favorite and Companion, he made me the onely Confident of his Passion, but in such sad expressions, that my soul was also much troubled in his behalf: for consider, said he, the crosnes of this adventure, that I should passionately be in Love with the fair *Iris*, whom so many Nobles Court. Ah fortune, said he, is it not enough to give me ten Rivals, but I must have a thousand, for whom hath she seen that she hath not captivated? Ah my Friend, said he, you know not what Love is, yes replyed I, you have a Companion in your Misery. Can *Florus* be unhappy and his Friend at rest? doe not mock me, said he, for you cannot harbor a passion without sensible alteration, or carry fire in your bosome without being troubled with it: yes, cry'd I, as long as you are my Friend, I shall never appear unhappy to the World, 'Tis on your welfare depends my health: Good Gods, said he, are you then at last my Rival, and desire me to be well, that is never to love the fair *Iris* more? The Gods

have directed my Eyes a better way, said I, then to offend so generous a friend in desiring to make my self happy by his misfortune: Be happy then my Friend, replyed he, in thy desires, since I cannot be happy in mine: yet clear me at once of all suspition with the name onely of her you Adore: That would be, said I, to incur the displeasure of my dearest Friend, and render my self miserable for ever: well then, replyed he, you have a dearer friend then *Florus* that you will not disoblige, and a Mistris that I must never know, though I have revealed mine to you: ah Friend, must this be the end of Amity, must I then renounce my Friendship and good will towards you, whom I have loved so dear, have I told you my mind, and have I not as faithful a Breast to conceal yours? he would have said more, but unwilling to give him cause to suspect infidelity in me, since he was to be the greatest instrument of my happiness, it is, said I ——— who, said he, is she without a name? not so, replyed I, she hath a name that I Adore above all names, but I must crave your pardon first, before I utter it: Except *Iris*, said he, I would

would give thee the Empire of the whole World, were it in my power, rather than caſt thee from my Breaſt; name but another: It is then, ſaid I, the Beauteous *Clora*, that the unhappy *Boniface* loves, if you can forgive me that Crime. I doe not forgive onely but ſhall always, replyed he, be your ſervant in this point, and deſire no other reward but your help in my misfortune: that ſhall never be wanting, ſaid I, as long as you mediate with your Fair Siſter for me, which I hope you will vouchſafe, ſince by your own paſſion you may gueſs the vehemency of mine. Farewel, dear Friend, I hope at my return to bring you more comfort then can be expected from the ſhortneſs of the time for my diligence ſhall never be wanting to my deareſt *Florus*; Farewel, I left the ſad *Florus* without giving him time, to return anſwer, and ſo went to act what I could in his behalf. But ſince mornings are not fit hours to viſit Ladies, I ſtayed till the afternoon, and then I came ſo ſoon after dinner, that I found the fair *Iris* alone in her Chamber; after I had rendred an officious Complement, which ſhe returned in great civility:

Madam, ſaid I, unto her, I am very ſorry I come upon ſo bad news, yet it is my duty to acquaint you, that the Generous *Florus* is a priſoner: *Florus* a priſoner, (replied *Iris* infinitely aſtoniſhed) Hath his Enemy ſurpriſed him at *Amiens*? No Madam, ſaid I, he is in the City, and is taken by one of my acquaintance, and it is in your power to releaſe him. I cannot deny, ſaid ſhe, but the misfortune of him you name doth exceedingly trouble me, for beſides, he is more beautiful then any that ever I ſaw, he is kinſman to *Iſara*, whom I love very well; it muſt therefore be either a Crime or an impoſſibility, if I will not help him: as for things onely difficult, I will attempt them all to ſave the life of an unfortunate man, that is a very ſtranger unto me, much ſooner for a Friend whom I infinitely eſteem.

Be pleaſed, Madam, to reſolve then, ſaid I unto her, you will ſet him at liberty: I will ſaid ſhe; but will you be pleaſed alſo to forgive me, when I tell you by what means he is a priſoner, and by what means he muſt be ſet free? The faireſt *Iris* was ſo ſurpriſed at this diſcourſe, that ſhe looked upon me and could not anſwer,

and

and began to ſuſpect the truth. Nevertheleſs, for her promiſe ſake, ſhe ſaid, ſhe would; then did I make her acquainted with all the Eloquence I could of his misfortune, that without her pitty he was a priſoner for ever; ſometimes praiſing his Anceſtors, ſometimes his Valour, ſometime his Beauty, that I gained ſo much of her good will, that ſhe bid me tell him he was at liberty, and bluſhed, not able to ſpeak more.

Well, Madam, ſaid I, and kiſt her hand, you have not ſet him at liberty onely, but made me the happieſt Man in the World, her modeſty tied her Tongue, and forced her to make ſigns with her hand, that I ſhould leave her, I willingly obeyed, and the good news ſo winged my ſpeed, that I ſoon found out the generous *Florus*, who had been no leſs diligent in my behalf, in as much as he was always in his Siſters company, and ſhe loved him moſt dearly. He thanked me Ten thouſand times, and I thanked him as many; but alas his ſucceſs proved better then mine, for in two moneths ſpace he enjoyed the Beauteous *Iris*. But *Dimnas*, my cruel Rival deſtroyed my Peace,

he

he was a Lord of *France*, of a haughty Spirit, of twice my Age; yet although not so much in favor with the Beauteous *Clora*, he thought nevertheless his Birth so far beyond mine, would prevail beyond my tender Addresses, or her Brothers Mediation.

One day coming from the fair *Clora*, *Dimnas* met me, and speaking very coldly unto me, I have sought you several days, said he, but never could meet you, unless with the Lord *Florus*, or his Sister, in whose presence you are continually. Had I known your intentions, said I, with the same coldness, but very civilly, I should have come to you to know your pleasure. Perhaps if you had known it, said *Dimnas*, you would have been so far from coming to me, that you would not have come to the Lady *Clora*. Since I do not use, said I, to shun either my friends or enemies, I know no reason you should speak to me in this manner. I know less reason, said he, you have to carry your self so of late. Since I ever followed the Rules of Reason, answered I, I do not know how I have misbehaved my self. When I first knew you, said he, it was

not

not easie to see that your frequent visits of the Princes would afterwards prejudice me, or that a Man of your quality should be so bold, as to oppose such a one as my self. My quality (said I, much incensed) is indeed unknown to me, but I had rather be received by the Lady *Clora* for my own Vertue, then for my quality onely, though it were higher then yours. You may do well, said he, to think of your own, and let mine alone; therefore, let me see you no more with the Lady *Clora*. If I do—— How Sir, said I, and interrupted him, Force me not to lay aside the respects I should otherwise pay to your quality; for men of carriage cannot brook to be threatned. You shall suffer my threats, replied he, and the effects, if you correct not your self; provided our Swords be equal, said I fiercely, the inequality of our condition shall not hinder you from preventing me: Do me the honor therefore, to tell me with your Sword in your hand, whether it be Nature or Fortune that puts a difference betwixt us; you shall know presently, said he, and drawing his Sword, bid me defend my self. Animated therefore by my love,

by

by my jealousies, and by his angry language, did fight with such fury, that *Dimnas* as gallant as he was, had a hard task to resist. I found my advantage, and pressed so hard upon him, that I killed him in the place; which forced me in the greatest dispair, to take my Horse and flee for my life in disguise, without taking leave so much as of the Lady, I so dearly loved. How did I wish for Ten thousand Rivals, rather then leave her; how did I curse my self, that I suffered not my adversary to sheath his Sword in my Breast, that I might have died in her service.

Thus I lived three years in the greatest misery that man could suffer, till the Wars in *Burgundy* began; then I resolved to go unknown and regain my credit with the King, and obtain his pardon, or die under the Banner of the Duke that had given me life; but he had no sooner setled the affairs in *Burgundy*, but he was convicted of High Treason, and afterwards beheaded in the Bastil; then was all my hopes of pardon lost with him, whom before the King loved, as never Man loved.

This

This made me retire hither, and with what my Fortune haſt bleſt me; ſpend the remainder of my days in ſorrow.

Thus well ſatisfied with the *Hiſtory* of his Fortunes, my Maſter thanked him for the pains he had taken in relating them, and the night growing late took his leave.

CAP. XV.

He goes on with his Maſter from Rouen *to S.* Claire; *thence paſsing by* Mont-Martyr, *he comes to* Paris. *Two pleaſant Stories of S.* Dennis *and his Church.*

WE took our farewel the next day of *Rouen*, and paſſing through many * *Dubargs*, we came at laſt to S. *Claire*; here were no rarities to entertain my fancy as at *Rouen*, which gives me leiſure, to tell what befel me that night in the Inn. It was ſo taken up with Paſſengers, that I could not lie any where near my Maſter, but

* *Villages.*

but was forced to lie in the remoteſt part of the Houſe, over an old Ware-houſe, in a Bed provided for the Carriers, when they came that way. This gave me opportunity to view the Secreſies of every Packet in the dead time of the night. But I found onely about three Piſtols in Money, the reſt was ſuch ſtuff that I had no appetite for, and ſo I returned to Bed. I was no ſooner laid, but I could hear one come after me, which cauſed me to ſuſpect I had been perceived. Therefore I locked my door, and laid my Sword by me with this reſolution, rather to kill them that dogged me, and ſhift for my eſcape in the morning, then to be ſubject to the rigor of the Law in a ſtrange place. But it fell out much better then my expectation; for ſtrait one knocked at my door, and in a Womaniſh voice cryed. *My dear, my dear open the door.* I was indeed much ſupprifed at this accident, but knowing by the voice it was a Woman that ſpoke, and deſirous to ſee the end of this adventure, I roſe, and opening the door, I returned to my Bed, ſhe followed me as eagerly, being in her Smock, and laying her ſelf down by me. I have waited, ſaid ſhe, this hour

for

for you ever ſince I ſaw you firſt amongſt your Packets, how came you in ſo late late to night. By this time I eaſily perceived the Poor Wench had miſtaken me for the Carrier that uſed to lie there, and with whom ſhe had formerly uſed this familiarity; and thereupon making ſome excuſe, that my Horſes were faln lame, and the like, I went about that I had never done before. How well I anſwered her expectation, ſhe onely knows, yet before five a Clock in the Morning, that ſhe went away for fear of being diſcovered by her Maſter, ſhe ſeemed to be as well ſatisfied with her new Bed-fellow, as I was pleaſed with the miſtake.

Not long after my Maſter roſe, but not ſo well ſatisfied with his lodging I ſuppoſe, as I was with mine, and we paſſed on in our journey to *Paris* through *Pontoiſe*, which is the laſt Town of *Normandy* that way; thence we paſſed by *Mont-Martyr* not far diſtant from *Paris*: Here it is reported, That in the time that the Heathens inhabited *Gaule*, many of the faithful ſuffered Martyrdom: Of theſe S. *Dennis* is cheif, being the titular Saint of *France*. For, ſay they, after he was beheaded,

headed, he made no more to do, but ſnatched up his head Sir, and ran with it down the Hill, in his Arms, as faſt as his Legs could carry him; till at the end of half a mile from the place of his execution, he ſate and reſted himſelf, then roſe again, and continued the ſame Eight times more, till he came to the place where they have now erected a Church to his memory; nay, according to that of *Minutius Fœlix*; *Majoribus noſtris tam facilis in mendaciis fides fuit, ut temere crediderint illa monſtroſa miracula: Et quicquid famæ licet fingere illis erat libenter audire.* The Inhabitants are ſo bewitched into a belief of this miracle, that at every reſting place they have built a Stone-Croſs and worſhip there.

Now becauſe it will not be altogether unpleaſant to relate another ſtory concerning S. *Dennis*'s Church, I ſhall repeat one, which I finde no where better ſet forth then where it is, in theſe words.

A pleasant Story of S. Dennis *Church, in* Mont-Martyr, *within a Mile of* Paris.

Dagobert, afterwards King of *France*, during the life of *Clotaire* the Second, his Father, had cruelly slain *Sadrasagille* his Governor; and to avoid the fury of his Father, much incensed with that action, he was compelled to wander up and down *France*, hungry and thirsty; and as he went, and he went (for this Tale says the Author, should be told in the same stile that Wenches tell theirs by the Fires side) till he came to the Sepulcher of S. *Dennis*, where he laid himself down and slept; and then there appeared unto him, a fine old Man with a Grey Beard, and a Staff in his Hand; and he told him, That his Father was dead; and that he should be King; and he prayed him of all loves, That when he came to be King, he would build a Church there, to the honor of S. *Dennis*. He had an hard heart, that could deny so sweet an old Man so little a courtesie for so good news; and I trow, he was more kind then so. And

ſo when the Church was built, the Biſhop was ſent for in all haſt to bleſs it: But it chanced the Night before the Day the Biſhop was to bleſs it, there came to Town an ugly Leaper, and the foul'eſt that ever was ſeen; and this Leaper would needs lie in the Church: And when he was there, about Twelve a Clock in the Night our Saviour came to the Church in Garments as White as driven Snow; there came with him the Apoſtles, the Angels, and the Martyrs, and ſweeteſt Muſick that ever was heard in the World. Then Chriſt bleſſed the Church, and ſaid unto the Leaper, that he ſhould tell the Biſhop, That the Church was already bleſſed; and for a token of it, he gave the Leaper his health; who preſently became as fine a ſweet Youth, as one ſhould ſee in a Summers day. *Auditam admiſſe riſum teneatis.* You may laugh, if you pleaſe, but I will aſſure you this is the Story: Neither is it a jot the leſs Authentical, becauſe of the ſtile. Such ridiculous ſtuff did the Monks and Friers of thoſe times, invent to pleaſe and blind the people.

But

But enough of this, *Ne quid nimis*, I ſhall return to my Maſter, who at our arrival at *Paris*, being a Gentleman, would not lie in the Common Inns, but took a Lodging in a Private Citizens Houſe.

Hitherto Fortune *crown'd me with ſucceſs,*
And every Action had it, more or leſs.
Perhaps th'are childiſh though, and theſe to hear,
Is Meat for ſuch, and no Judicous Ear.
If Childiſh, I was then a Child you know;
And Vices *muſt as well as* Vertues *grow.*
Pardon me, Courteous Reader, for what's paſt,
That was the top, the bottom comes at laſt.
Thus skill'd in Arts, Apprentices do go
To Cities, their themſelves and Crafts to ſhow.
And I that formerly, to act have been afraid,
Am come to Paris *now, to drive full Trade.*

CHAP. XVI.

He Cheats a young Gallant with whom he Liveth, of One hundred Crowns, and a Country Maid of her Virginity.

WE had not continued in our Lodging above a week, when the good old man of the House fell sick of a Feaver, and being then in his Climacterical year, yielded up his last breath. The Widow then left with Children grown to Mans Estate, who like Birds as soon as feathered leave the Nest, forgetting the Respects which they owe to those that gave them Life, found it too hard a matter to rule or govern them longer; for the Son commonly thinks himself too wise to be ruled by a Womans Orders, and scorns to submit unto a Sex which seems to be born to live in subjection. This made *Laris*, for so was her eldest Son's name, take little care for any thing but gratifying his sensual pleasures, for having carried away the Means and Estate from the rest, he imployed his time one-

ly

ly in Hunting, Gaming and Viſiting his Neighbors, and ſuch like exerciſes being the uſual recreations of head-ſtrong Gallants. 'Tis no wonder then if this looſe kind of life opened a door to greater debauchery; for by theſe courſes of life the fire that lies hid in youthful Blood is ſoon kindled. 'Twas his fortune one day as he Hunted, to caſt his Eyes upon a a Farmers Daughter whoſe Beauty was above a Countrey-comlineſs, and whoſe perſon had nothing clowniſh but her Apparel; thus Nature who breeds the faireſt Pearls in the craggieſt Rocks, takes delight ſometimes, to ſhew, that ſhe is no leſs induſtrious in the Countrey then in the Cities; in a word, Beauty is there for the moſt part moſt chaſte, and Chaſtity more fair.

The young Gentleman inthralled with her Love (whoſe name was *Villa*) thought by reaſon of his great Riches, that he ſhould eaſily obtain his deſire: and as the French Blood is very active in this caſe, he let ſlip no opportunity to effect it; but he found himſelf far wide in his account; for beſides that by a natural Modeſty, ſhe avoided all the importuni-

ties of this Complimenter: ſhe was alſo withheld by another tye, being long before engaged to a young man of her own quality, whom ſhe loved dearly as her life. This made her more circumſpect and wary, and in no wiſe to correſpond to the fooleries of *Laris*, for ſeeing him come, ſhe would turn another way or imploy her ſelf about ſome huſwifery, in concluſion, ſhe avoided this Youth in ſuch manner, that all the ſubtilties which he invented to entrap her, were as ſo many vented Mines without effects. This brought his paſſion to that height that it plainly appeared in his countenance, and could lie hid no longer, for according to that of *Apulleius*, theſe be the ſigns of Love, Melancholly, *Pallor deformis, Marcentes oculi, quies turbida, & ſpiritus cruciatus tarditate vehementior*, or as *Ovid* ſpeaks concerning *Canace*.

Fugerat ore calor, maciesque obduxerat artus,
Sumebant minimos ora coacta cibos.
Nec ſomni faciles, & non erat annua nobis:
Et gemitum nullo preſſa dolore dabam.

So

So that I ſoon perceived (for by reaſon of my *debonaire* humour, I was often in his company) that his jovial diſpoſition was now ſmothered with a ſudden melancholly, and that he bent to ſolitarineſs now more then ever he did before to good company: I reſolved therefore to ſearch out the cauſe of it, telling him that though I were a ſtranger, and one that he knew not ſo well as his Brothers, yet I had a Breaſt as faithful as theirs, and a courage that could never brook an injury done to my friend. My Brothers, ſaid he, I know are not well wiſhers to my life that inherit the whole Eſtate; nay I would rather truſt it in the hands of a ſtranger then theirs: then, replyed I, you ſhall, if you pleaſe, find by the effects, that I am no ſtranger but your friend to the laſt, impart onely to me the reaſon of your ſudden change.

At theſe words the credulous Youth could no longer ſmother his Paſſion, but in much ſorrow told me all that I have been hitherto relating; adding, that if I could help him, it was not that (putting a handful of Money into my hand) but a greater recompence ſhould be made to my fidelity. I had now hit the mark

I aimed at, and was ready to doe any thing one theſe conditions.

Firſt, therefore I ſought to know the name of him ſhe loved, as the key to my deſigne, and where he lived, which with much difficulty at laſt I gained, on this wiſe.

I diſguiſed my ſelf in poor Habit, coloured my Face Tawny, and my Voice did naturally concur, for being educated at *Callais* in *Picardy*, I had not yet poliſht the roughneſs of my clowniſh French with the City Dialect; that I was more like a true Ægyptian then a natural French man. Then went I to the Farmers houſe deſiring ſome Bread, and that I would tell them their Fortunes for it, pretending great skill in Phiſiognomy, and Chiromancy: the young Maids, as it is common in ſuch caſes, deſirous to be informed of their Sweethearts, came flocking to the door, but I ſaw not the Daughter amongſt them: well, ſaid I, you are not all come, there is one behind ſtill, pray tell her ſhe ſhall have as good fortune as the reſt if ſhe pleaſe to hear it: nevertheleſs I fell to my Art, ſome I told this, ſome that, and pleaſed them ſo well, that

at

at last they called her out. *Qualiscunque voles, Judæus somnia vendit, spondet amatorem tenerum, &c.* Well, said she, and how many Sweethearts shall I have? their's, said I, pointing to the rest are to come, but you have one already, nay two; then calling her aside, tell me, said I, the name of the first, and that you may believe that I have skill in my Profession, I shall tell you the name of the other, and which you shall certainly have. This so tickled up her fancy, that immediately she confessed his name was *Jacques Moulier*, then I pulled out my Table Book, and making some Figures therein: well, said I, it falls out thus; the first Letter of another that loves you, is *L.* which coming between *I.* and *M.* unfortunately shall lose his aime, two having more prevalence then one, and so you shall certainly enjoy the first. Now, *I*, the first Letter of his name being the third Vowel of the Six, is to be multiplied thrice, the result is Nine, and it follows, you shall enjoy your Love on Saturday Seven-night, which is the Ninth day from this being Wednesday.

By these Quirps I induced her to believe all was true; nay, said I, *Venus* and

Ameriger

Amerique, the great Gods of Love being now in conjunction, signifie, this shall be brought to pass by a Letter and a Gross. The Maid was again overjoyed, the time of her Marriage grew so near, and I had so described the person of *Laris*, that was to be deceived of all his hopes to her, that I gave her no cause to suspect the least deceit, she rewarded me as I had pleased her, with more Bread and Cheese then a Stomach well an hungred could have eaten, yet I thanked her for it, and so returned to my friend, But not acquainting *Laris* with what had passed, well, said I, what would you give me, if in a weeks time I bring you into the Arms of your beloved, without being tied to the bands of Wedlock; I would give more then I am worth, said this desperate Lover, if I had it, to enjoy her; well, said I again, a hundred Crowns shall suffice for my Reward, and you shall, providing onely you will furnish me with a Priests Habit, and your self with a Peasants; that I can easily doe, replyed he, and thereupon sent his Lacquey to an old Fryar of his acquaintance; and afterwards to a Tenant of his not far distant. This done, you must be ready,

said

ſaid I, on Saturday Seven-night, in the Evening at Five of the Clock, to go to the Fifth Croſs on Saint *Dennis*-Hill in thoſe Cloaths, with a patch on your face, and an old Periwig on your Head, there you ſhall meet her, but counterfeit your voice as much as you can, and ſay what you imagine the other would ſay in your caſe, for by a Letter I ſhall bring it to paſs, that ſhe ſhall meet you there inſtead of her Lover *Moulier*, at five of the clock in the evening; thence you ſhall conduct her to the *Flower de Luce* Inn on that Rode, where, as by your appointment I ſhall come ſoon after in my Prieſts Habit and marry you; you may pretend this Secreſie, is leaſt you ſhould be known by your friends and the like, ſo ſhall you enjoy her that night, and if you pleaſe, diſcover your ſelf next morning as her lawful Husband, or go ſatisfied in your deſires: for the probability of my propoſitions he gave me fifty Crowns, with promiſe of fifty more after I ſhould have brought the matter to paſs. So I returned to my Maſter till next days leiſure gave me time to write and ſend her this Letter.

My

My dear *Villa*,

I Have reſolved at length in anſwer to all thy tender love, to marry thee next Saturday Seven-night, at the Flower du Luce *Inn, near S.* Dennis *Church: Meet me therefore at five in the Evening at the Fifth Croſs, and I ſhall conduct thee thither, where I have appointed a Prieſt to meet us. I ſhall come in diſguiſe it is true, but you ſhall know me by a Patch on my Face, and a ſhort Perewig; for I dare not yet diſcover my intentions to any, for fear of my Rival* Laris, *accept the faithful* Villa, *from whom death ſhall never part.*

Her true Lover

F. Moulier.

She received and read this Letter, and whether induced by what I had told her of the time, and the place, in form of a Gipſie, or out of a deſire to be married and fruſtrate *Laris* intentions, to believe it was true. She met at the time and place appointed, where I married her, and my confederate enjoyed her. This allayed his

his Paſſion, for as the deſire had cauſed it, ſo the enjoyment of the thing diſperſed all appearance of *Erotique Melancholly* in him.

Thus for a hundred Crowns I ſold the Maid,
By my fallacious ſtratagem betray'd,
Unto the arms of him ſhe hates. I fear
That he hath bought repentance too, too dear,
But I thrive. Bought wit's beſt, and there-
fore it's fit,
When the Crows gape, the Fox ſhould get
the bit.

CHAP. XVII.

What hapned the next Morning.]

Tenebris audacia creſcit, ſays the Poet, and I know the love-ſick youth, concealed in the ſhades of Night, made good uſe of his time, to the ſatisfaction of his beloved, being well pleaſed with the ſweet potion I had procured for his Paſſion. For ſcarce had the Sun left *Thetis* Breſt, and bluſhed above the Horiſon, when theſe two lovers parted likewiſe

wise she to her Fathers house, without discovering the deceit for *Cæcus Amor*; he to his Mothers, as *debonaire* as ever, for *Amoris vulnus eadem quæ facit sanat*, according to the Epigram,

Τηλεφός ἐιμι, κόρη. σὺ δὲ γίνεο πιστὸς Ἀχιλλεύς.
Κάλλει σῷ παῦσον τὸ πόθον, ὡς ἔβαλες.

I, sweet am Telephus, *thou* Achilles *be.*
And let thy Beauty cure that wounded me.

He related me the whole Passages, and Success of the foregoing Night, wherewith he seemed so well pleased, That he gave me the other Fifty Crowns; and to compleat our mirth, I rehearsed what befel me in the Inn, when I was mistaken for the Carrier. Thus we passed the best part of the Morning till my Master rose, who according to his custom had scarce walked in the Garden an hour, but Dinner was ready. After which, they walked out in the Garden, My Master, the Widow, her Son, *Laris* and her two Daughters, to the Fountain in the midst of the Garden; which was the most pleasantly planted that ever I saw any belonging to a private house. The Fountain was on this

this wise. A great Brasen-Snake circled round, the Body of a fair Orange-Tree, which was then onerated with its Golden Fruit, which the Rays of the Sun made to appear most glorious, dispersed its Crystal Waters through Seven Heads (for so many Children had she had, and her Husband had there erected so many Heads) three yards distance from every side of the Tree; round the which was a Marble Seat curiously cut into several Fruits and Flowers, where it was most pleasant either to sleep by the noise of the Falling Waters, or sit in the hottest day of Summer, secure from the scorching Rays. Here they entertained my Master with several pleasant Discourses, for I staid Dinner with the Servants which were two Women; and as he was pleased to tell me afterwards (for such things *Decies repetita placebunt*) the Widow began thus.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

The Pleasant History of a Knight of Pavia.

IN the time of *Frederick* the First (as all affirm) the Christians to recover the *Holy Land*, made an Universal Invasion over the Sea; which *Saladine*, then *Sultan* of *Babylon*, a Man as vertuous as Politick hearing, resolved to go in person, and see what the Christian Princes did; and thereupon disguises himself in Merchants habits with two of his greatest Lords: And having put his business in order in *Egypt*, pretends he will go a Pilgrimage.

Thus viewed he many Christian Provinces, till riding at last by *Lombardy*, to go over the Mountains, it came to pass, That going from *Millan* to *Pavia*, and already belated, he met with a Gentleman of *Pavia*, who was then returning with his Men, his Hawks, and his Dogs, to a House of his by the River *Tesin*. *Saladine* therefore asks one of Mr. *Thorels* men (for so was the Gentlemans name) how far they had to *Pavia*, and whether they could arrive

arrive there that night time enough to get in. Mr. *Thorel* did not ſtay to let his Men make anſwer, but ſeeing they were ſtrangers, anſwered himſelf, My Lord, you cannot arrive time enough to get in. Then ſaid *Saladine*, tell us, if you pleaſe, becauſe we are ſtrangers, where we may lodge. That will I do with all my heart, ſaid Mr. *Thorel*, I was juſt now ſending one of my Men not far from *Pavia*, about ſome buſineſs; and he ſhall go with you, and conduct you to a place where you may be very well lodged. Then whiſpering to one of his men, he gave him charge to carry them a farther way about to his Houſe.

This done Mr. *Thorel* takes a nearer way home, before them, and furniſhing a Table ready in a Summer-Houſe, he ſtood expecting them at the Window. His man that had led the ſtrangers over many pleaſant Paths, to give his Maſter time enough, did now approach; and Mr. *Thorel* no ſooner perceived them, but he came down Stairs, and ſmiling ſaid, Gentlemen you are very welcome. *Saladine* then ſaluted him in theſe words. Sir, If men may complain of thoſe that are civil, we may com-

plain of you, that force us without any merit of ours to receive so great a courtesie from you. This courtesie you receive from me, said Mr. *Thorel*, is not comparable to those such persons merit, as your faces promise you to be; but out of *Pavie* you could not be well lodged, and therefore I desire you would not take it ill, if you are stopt a little in your way for your ease; and saying thus, All his men came to attend them, and took care of their Horses.

Then Mr. *Thorel* brought these three strangers to the Room he had prepared for them; where with cool Wines, and pleasant Discourse, he entertained them till Supper. And those that were with him could speak Latin, which was the cause they understood one another: So that it seemed to these strangers, that this Knight was the most courteous and accomplished Gentleman they had ever seen.

It seemed likewise to Mr. *Thorel*, that his guests were great men, and that they merited more then at first sight, he thought. So that he was sorry in himself, that he could not help them that night no better company that might entertain them

them better; but resolved to recompence it the next day at Dinner. Therefore he sent one of his men to his wife at *Pavia*, to prepare against the next day; and afterwards led them into his Garden, where he desired to know who they were; to whom *Saladine* answered, They were *Cyprian* Merchants which came from *Cyprus*.

Thus from one Discourse to another, they passed the time till Supper, where they were so entertained, that it was much beyond their expectation, if it had been a set Banquet. When the Cloath was taken away, Mr. *Thorel* imagining they might be weary, conducted them to a large Bed-Chamber, and a little after took his leave.

His Servant that he sent to *Pavia*, had done his message to his Wife, who sent for many of her Friends, and of Mr. *Thorels* Servants, and prepared all that was necessary for a great Feast according to her Husbands commands.

Next day the Gentlemen rose, and Mr. *Thorel* taking his Hawks with him, contented his guests wonderfully with that pleasant pastime. But said *Saladine*, who

will inform us, which is the beſt Inn in *Pavia*. It ſhall be I, ſaid Mr. *Thorel*, that will inform you, for I am going thither, as well as you.

Thus they paſſed on till about nine of the Clock they arrived at *Pavia*, and thinking they were going to the beſt Inn, they came to Mr. *Thorels* Houſe, where about Fifty of the cheifeſt of the City were ready to receive them. At this ſight, *Saladine*, and his Companions, much amazed. This is not that, ſaid they, that we deſired of you, therefore pray leave us in our way; to which, Mr. *Thorel* anſwered, *My Lords, for what is paſt, I am more indebted to Fortune then to you, in as much as you had need of diverting there: But for this morning I have prepared, and likewiſe all theſe Gentlemen that are about you; therefore if it ſeems to you, to be civil to refuſe to dine with them, you may.* *Saladine* and his company overcome with his perſwaſions alighted, and received by all the Gentlemen, were brought into a Chamber richly furniſhed for them; then having pulled off their riding Cloaths, and being a little refreſhed, they were conducted into the Hall, where all things were triumphantly

in

in order; here they ſate down to dinner, where they were ſo magnificently ſerved with ſuch varieties of meats, and ſuch good Order, that the Emperour himſelf had he been there, could not have been better entertained; and although *Saladine* and his companions were great Lords, and uſed to ſee great Feaſts; nevertheleſs they much wondred at this, conſidering the quality of the Knight, that they knew to be a Citizen and not a Prince.

When they had ſate a little after dinner, the Gentlemen of *Pavia*, according to Mr. *Therel's* deſire went out, and he remained with the three ſtrangers onely. Then, that their might be nothing that he loved but they ſhould ſee, he ſent for his Wife, which was a Woman very fair and beautiful, richly cloathed, and accompanied with her two little Boys that appeared like Angels on each ſide of her; when they ſaw her they ſaluted her with great reſpect, and made her ſit between them, and made much alſo of her fair Children; then after a little diſcourſe had paſt between them, ſhe asked from whence they came and whither they went: to which they anſwered the ſame they

had done to Mr. *Thorel*: then ſaid the Lady ſmiling, I perceive my womaniſh advice will prove to the purpoſe, which I deſire you as an eſpecial favour you will not deny, nor ſcorn the little Preſent I ſhall cauſe to be brought, but that you will accept of it, conſidering that Women according to their ſmall abilities give little Gifts; and that you will look more on the will of the perſon that offers it, then the quality of the gift; then ſhe preſented to each two Gowns, one lined with Silk and the other with Velvet, not in that faſhion that Citizens and Merchants ware them, but as Lords, three Coats likewiſe of Taffita, and fine Linnen, ſaying, take it you pleaſe theſe Robes in which faſhion I have this day clothed my Husband, and for the other things, though they are of ſmall value, yet they may doe you ſome good, ſince you are farre from your Wives, and have farre to goe: the Gentlemen more ſurprized at this then all that had paſſed, perceived that Mr. *Thorel* would not leave undone the leaſt courteſie, and doubted, ſeeing the richneſs of the Preſents, leſt Mr. *Thorel* had diſcovered who they were. Nevertheleſs

theleſs, ſaid one to the Lady, Theſe are, Madam, very great Preſents, and which ought not to be lightly taken, if we were not conſtrained by your deſires that cannot be ſaid nay: this done, Mr. *Thorel* came again into the Chamber, and his wife took her leave; then asked he the ſtrangers if they were pleaſed to take Horſe and ſee the City, which they willingly conſented to, and according to Mr. *Thorels* intreaties that had ſo much obliged them, they afterwards returned with him to his Houſe, and ſtayed there all that night; the next morning they roſe to goe on their voyage, and deſiring their Horſes might be brought, they were preſented with three freſh and tall Geldings, inſtead of theirs that were weary, and likewiſe freſh Horſes for their men, which *Saladine* ſeeing, turned to his companions, and ſaid, I proteſt that there never was a man more courteous and generous then this, and if the Chriſtian Kings were as much Kings in their particular, as this is a Knight, the Sultan of *Babylon* muſt not expect to take one of them, much leſs all theſe that are preparing againſt him; and ſeeing he could not well refuſe them,

he thanked Mr. *Thorel* and mounted; Mr. *Thorel* with ſeveral of his friends accompanied them a great way out of the City, and though it grieved *Saladine* very much to part with Mr. *Thorel*, nevertheleſs being conſtrained by his affairs, he deſired him to return.

Mr. *Thorel* then troubled likewiſe to leave them, ſaid, Gentlemen, ſeeing it pleaſes you, I will, and deſire to know no more of you then you pleaſe, yet whoſoever you are, I ſhall never beleeve you to be onely Merchants, and I commend you to God. *Saladine* having already taken his leave of thoſe that were come with *Mr. Thorel*, ſaid ſmiling to him, Sir, it may come to paſs hereafter, that we may ſhow you of our Merchandize to your ſatisfaction; Farewell.

Thus departed *Saladine* and his companions, and having travelled over ſeveral Provinces, they at length returned to *Alexandria*, and gave the People warning to prepare in their defence. Great preparations were made on both ſides, and now the time was come, that the Chriſtians ſhould make their invaſion, and amongſt the reſt, Mr. *Thorel* being a moſt valiant man,

man, notwithstanding the Tears and Prayers of his Wife, resolved to goe, and having prepared all his things; he said to his wife whom he dearly loved; My Friend, I goe as you see, as well for my Honour, as the Salvation of my Soul: I leave thee our Estate and our Honour, and because I am not certain of my return for many accidents that may happen in the way that I am going, I desire one favour of thee, that whatsoever becomes of me, if thou hast not certain news of my life, thou wilt stay a year, a month, and a day without Marrying, from this day that I depart; the Lady weeping, answered; I know not how to bear the affliction you leave me in by going from me; but if my life be stronger then it, and any accident befall thee, whether thou live or dye, I shall certainly remain Mr. *Thorel*'s wife. I am very certain replyed he, as for thy part it will be as you say, but thou art a fair young woman, and of great birth, and thy Virtue is known by all; these things will cause several great persons if they had the least news of my death, to ask thee of thy Friends and Brothers against thy will, and this is the reason that makes

me

me, limit this time and no longer; The Lady answered, I will doe what I can to prevent this, and when I am at last constrained to doe otherwise, be assured I will obey you in this you command me, then weeping and taking the Ring off her Finger; if it happen, said she, I die before I see you again, remember me when you see it: thus taking leave of his Relations, Mr. *Thorel* went on his voyage, and in few days joyned with the Christian Army; but either by the Industry or Fortune of *Saladine*, the slaughter of the Christians was so great, that few escaped death who were not taken prisoners; amongst the rest was Mr. *Thorel* carried prisoner to *Alexandria*, there unknown and afraid to be known, he pretended skill in Hawks, which indeed he took great delight in, and was at length sent for by the Sultan out of prison, and made his Faulconer, but passing onely under the name of the Christian, he was unknown to him.

Mr. *Thorel*, who could never put *Pavia* out of his mind, had several ways tried to escape, but none succeeded. One day the Sultan talking with him concerning his Hawks, Mr. *Thorel* chanced to smile, making

making a certain action with his Mouth, that *Saladine* when he was at his Houſe in *Pavia*, had particularly taken notice of, this made him call Mr. *Thorel* to mind, and looking earneſtly on him, he imagined it was he, and ſaid, tell me Chriſtian of what Countrey art thou? I am of *Pont* replyed he, a *Lombard* of a City called *Pavia*, a poor man and of low condition, *Saladine* half aſſured of what he doubted, cauſed forthwith all his Robes to be hung in a Chamber, and bringing Mr. *Thorel* in, Tell me Chriſtian, ſaid he, if amongſt theſe Robes there be any that ever thou ſaweſt. Mr. *Thorel* lookt on them all, and ſaw thoſe his Wife had given to the *Cyprian* Merchant, yet could not believe they were the ſame. Nevertheleſs he anſwered, Sir, I know not one of them, but 'tis true, theſe two are like two Robes which heretofore I gave to a *Cyprian* Merchant that came to my Houſe; then *Saladine* could no longer withold himſelf, but embracing him, ſaid, You are Mr. *Thorel*, and I am one of the three Merchants to whom your Wife gave theſe Robes, and now is the time come that you ſhall know my Merchandiſe, as I told

you

you, when I departed from you. Mr. *Thorel* was glad and ashamed together, to have had such a gueſt, and to have entertained him no better. Then *Saladine* cloathed him in rich apparel, and brought him in the preſence of the greateſt Lords; and after he had ſpoken many things in his praiſe, and of his valour, he commanded he ſhould be honored as himſelf, by all thoſe that deſired his favor, as every one did afterwards: But aboveall, the two Lords that were in *Saladines* company at Mr. *Thorel's* houſe.

Thus the worthy Knight had lived happily the remainder of his days in the Sultans Court; but when he remembred *Pavia*, and his dear Wife, he fell into ſuch a Melancholly, that he loſt his appetite, and taking his Bed, reſolved to die. *Saladine* that loved him extreamly, no ſooner heard of this, but he viſited him, and knowing at length the cauſe of his Melancholly, he blamed him, that he had not acquainted him with it ſooner, and deſired him to be of good comfort, aſſuring him, That if he would he ſhould be in *Pavia* within the time appointed, and acquainted him with the manner.

Mr.

Mr. *Thorel* gave credit to the words of the Sultan, having heard it was a thing possible to be done, and that had been done, and often sollicited him to it. *Saladine* then commanded a *Negromancer* of his, whose Science he had already experienced, that he should find a way whereby Mr. *Thorel* might be carried to *Pavia* in one night on a Bed. The *Negromancer* answered it should be done, but it would be expedient to cause him to sleep. When *Saladine* therefore had given him order concerning this matter, he returned to Mr. *Thorel*, and finding him altogether disposed to go to *Pavia*, if it were possible, or else to die. He said, Mr. *Thorel* if you love your Wife affectionately, and you doubt she is married to another, God knows whether I can help you to such another; for of all the Women that ever I saw, it is she whom Vertue hath rendred most worthy of Praise and Love.

It would have been a thing very agreeable, since Fortune hath brought you hither, that the time we have to live, we should pass together in this Kingdom that I hold. But if I cannot enjoy your company, because it comes in your mind to go

go to *Pavia*, in the appointed time, or to die, How unhappy am I, that I cannot ſend you home with that honor and company, that your Vertues merit. But ſince it cannot be ſo, and you muſt be there ſo ſoon, I will ſend you in that manner I told you. To which, Mr. *Thorel* replied, Sir the effects without your words, have made me know your good will, which I neither deſerve, nor ever ſhall; but I can ſcarce believe it poſſible, I ſhould to morrow be in *Pavia*. Nevertheleſs ſince you have promiſed, I deſire it may be done quickly, for to morrow is the laſt day of the time. *Saladine* ſaid it ſhould be done, and cauſed a very rich Bed to be made in his Hall according to their faſhion, of Velvet, and Cloath of Gold, with a counterpoint embroidered with Pearls and Precious Stones, two Pillows likewiſe ſutable to the Bed. This done he Cloathed Mr. *Thorel*, in a *Saracens* Robe, the richeſt that was ever ſeen; and on his head he put a large Turbant, according to their faſhion. Then ſitting by him, almoſt weeping, he began to ſay, Mr. *Thorel*, the hour that muſt ſeparate you and I, approaches; and becauſe I cannot accompany you, for

the

the quality of the way you are to take will not ſuffer it, I muſt take my leave of you here in this Chamber. Therefore before I bid you adieu, I deſire you by the love that is between us, That after you have put your affairs in order in *Lombardy*, you will come and ſee me once more before you die, that ſo I may be recompenſed of the grief I have to part with you ſo ſuddenly: And in the mean time, pray think it no trouble to viſit me with Letters, for I ſhall as willingly do any thing for your ſake, as any man that lives.

Mr. *Thorel* could not withhold his tears; and therefore to hinder them, he anſwered in few words, That it was impoſſible he ſhould ever forget his good deeds; and that he would do without fail what he had commanded him, if God permitted him leiſure. So *Saladine* having embraced and kiſſed him, ſaid to him with tears, *Farewel.* The other Barons took leave of him likewiſe. The Doctor not long after brought him a drink to ſtrengthen him; but he had no ſooner drank it, then he fell aſleep. By this time the *Negromancer* was ready ſtaying to be diſpatched. *Saladine* therefore

cauſed

caused Mr. *Thorel* to be laid, as he was sleeping, on the rich Bed he had prepared. By him he placed a large and rich Crown with an Inscription, signifying it was for Mr. *Thorel's* Wife; on the other side, a Sword, whose riches were inestimable. Then on each side, a Golden Bason full of Double Duckats, and Precious Stones, and Jewels. On his Breast, he placed a Plate beset with Pearls; and on his Finger he put a Ring, wherein was set a Carbuncle so resplendent, that it seemed a Lighted Torch. This done he kissed him, and bid the *Negromancer* dispatch: So that Mr. *Thorel* and the Bed, in the presence of *Saladine*, were carried out of sight, and not long after put in Saint *Peters* Church of *Pavia*.

The Sexton next morning entering into the Church with a Light, amazed at the sight of this rich Bed, ran away in great fear: Which the Abbot and Monks perceiving, Come let us see, said they, what hath frighted you; then the Abbot and Monks entred into the Church, and as with several Torches they had brought, they were looking on, and admiring the Riches of the Bed; the Knight awaked

and

and fetcht a great ſigh: This made both the Abbot and Monks to flie, as the Sexton had done before, crying out, *God help us.*

Mr. *Thorel* opening his Eyes, and looking round about him, perceived he was where he had deſired of *Saladine* to be, and without going farther, becauſe he ſaw the Monks did already run away, he called the Abbot by his name, deſiring him not to be afraid, for he was *Thorel* his Nephew. The Abbot hearing that, was more afraid then before, for it was the common talk, that he was killed in the Wars; yet after ſome words had paſſed between them at a diſtance, he began to be a little better aſſured, and making the Sign of the Croſs, he went to him. To whom Mr. *Thorel* ſaid, What are you afraid of Father, I am alive, God be thanked, and am come from beyond the Sea hither.

The Abbot by this time, though he had a great Beard, and was in ſtrange habit, perceived it was he, and taking him by the hand, ſaid, My ſon thou art welcome. But you muſt not wonder that we were afraid, for there is not one in the

City that doth not firmly believe you are dead; insomuch, that the Lady *Adelaïette* your Wife, overcome with the Prayers and Threatnings of her Parents, is against her will to be married this day, and all things necessary for the Feast are ready. Then Mr. *Thorel* rose up, and having given great presents to the Abbot and the Monks, desired them to speak nothing of his return, until such times he had performed a business he intended. Then putting his treasure in a sure place, he told his Uncle all that had hapned to him since his departure. But, said he, before my Friends know any thing of this, I would willingly know how my Wife will bear this marriage; and although it be not the custom for Churchmen to go to such Feasts, I desire you for the love of me, to give order we may be there. The Abbot answered, He would willingly do it; and as soon as the day came, he sent word to the Bridegroom that he would come with a friend of his to the wedding; to whom he answered, *They should be welcome.* Therefore when Dinner came, Mr. *Thorel* in the same habit he was in, went with the Abbot to the Bridegrooms house,

 where

where he was admired by all, but known by none. For the Abbot said he was a *Saracene*, that the Sultan had sent Ambassador to the King of *France*. He was placed at a Table over against his Wife, who did it on purpose that she might have the better view of his strange habit. He was also very glad of the pleasure he had to see her, and perceived easily by her countenance she was not well contented with the marriage. She oftentimes looked on him, not for any knowledge she had of him, but for his great Beard, his Turbant, and his strange apparel; also the firm belief she had that he was dead, blinded her eyes. But when Mr. *Thevet* thought it fit time to try whether she remembred him, or no; he took in his hand the Ring she gave him at his departure, and calling to a young Page that served by her. Pray, said he, tell the Bride from me, that it is the custom of my Countrey when any stranger is at the Table, that the Bride to signifie she is glad of his coming there, sends him the Cup wherein she drinks full of Wine, and after the stranger hath drank what he pleaseth, he covers it, and sends it to her, who to show she is pleased

with his being there, drinks the reſt. The young Page did his meſſage to the Bride, who taking him for ſome great perſon; and to ſhow that ſhe was pleaſed with his being there, ſhe commanded they ſhould waſh a great Golden Cup that ſtood before her and fill it full with Wine and carry it to the ſtranger. Mr. *Thorel* in the mean time, put the Ring ſhe had given him in his mouth, and as he drank, he let it fall in the Cup, no body perceiving it, then leaving but little Wine, he covered it, and ſent it to the Lady, who received it; and that the cuſtom might be accompliſhed, ſhe opened it and drank the reſt. Then perceived ſhe the Ring, and without ſaying a word, looked on it, and knowing it to be the ſame ſhe gave Mr. *Thorel* when he parted from her; ſhe looked more ſtedfaſtly on him, and at laſt knowing him, roſe without regarding what was before her, and embracing him, cryed, *My Lord, and my Husband.*

Then Mr. *Thorel* deſiring every one to keep their place, related all that had happened to him from the time he went to the War, concluding, That the Gentleman ought not to be diſpleaſed, who thinking

he

he was dead, had taken his Wife for his Bride, if he being alive had taken her from him again.

The Bridegroom seeing himself deceived, answered freely, and as a Friend, *That it was in his power to do with his own what he pleased.* The Lady then took off the Rings and Crown she had of her new Husband, and put on the Ring she found in the Cup, and likewise the Crown that *Saladine* had sent her, and went with all the pomp of the Wedding to Mr. *Thorel*'s house. There he gave large presents to him that made the Feast, to the Abbot, and to all his Relations; and afterwards sent the news of his good fortune with thanks to *Saladine*.

These are the ends of Mr. *Thorel*'s and his Ladies troubles; and this the recompence of his vertues, with which the Widow entertained my Master at the Fountain. But I fear I have trespassed too much on the Readers patience by this long digression, which makes me draw back my thoughts, and bring them out of the Garden into the Kitchin, to relate what passed at Dinner between me and the two Maids. For if the relation prove as

pleasant to the Reader, as the thing it self did to me, he shall therein reap much content: It was as followeth.

CHAP. XI.

He lies with the Chamber-Maid, then puts her off for a Beautiful and Vertuous Virgin, to Laris, *the Widows Son, with whom he lodgeth; afterwards marrieth himself to the Kitchin Maid, a very pleasant device.*

SEveral Authors have writ of our Nation, of the Men, the Women, and its several Commodities, and you have enough of them in *England*, better known by conversing with them, then by description of them. I shall therefore say this onely of them, that they have the most voluble Tongues of any Nation under Heaven, especially the Females, that you may sooner want ears, then they words; and as they are infinite in that, so are they regardless of the company they speak in, be he friend or stranger; though indeed no man is a stranger

to

to them. In ſmall time, they are extream-ly familiar, full of laughter, and toying, and laſcivious Songs. This made me, for I had now been two moneths here, as free as they; and in praiſing their Beauties, their Voices, and good Parts, I ſpent all the time that I was in their company. Inſomuch, that I always ſpent Dinner and Supper time in the greateſt merriment imaginable, for we were onely three, the two Maids and I; the one was indeed a French beauty, fair, adorned with blackneſs of Hair, ſtrait bodied, her hands long and ſlender; the other of the common mould. So that one appeared the Offſpring of day, the other of night. And I had enough to do to pleaſe the fair without diſpleaſing the foul, and to content the foul, without making the fair one jealous. Nevertheleſs I let ſlip no occaſion to the effecting of both. After Dinner (as I informed you before) my Maſter, the Widow, and her Children, commonly walked to the Fountain in the Garden, the Kitchin-maid returned to her work, which gave a ſpare hour to me, and the Chamber-maid. But becauſe kiſſing openly in *France*, is not the faſhion ſo much, as in other Coun-

treys; and the Women are very ſparing to receive ſuch kindneſſes, I perceived that the wanton deſires which all Maids are ſubject too, did require a more compleat ſatisfaction.

This made me bend my diſcourſe that way, and how happy he were that ſhould enjoy ſuch a Beauty, giving always by my words and actions, manifeſt ſigns of my affection. I was at that time alſo full of the Money I had gained of *Laris*, and preſented her with ſome ſmall toys; that in concluſion I wrought ſo upon her, that there was nothing wanting to the perfection of our love, but convenient time. Whileſt therefore the Widow entertained my Maſter at the Fountain, I enjoyed my Lady, but not without promiſe of marriage, which I valued not, ſince I never meant to be a man of my word. But after I had enjoyed her ſo often, that I began to be cloyed, I wanted not a device to free my ſelf from my promiſe; for I perceived *Laris* that had taſted the Farmers Daughter was ready for a freſh bit, and had asked me often concerning it. I know not any, ſaid I, of the like nature with the Farmers Daughter: But one I know that is

ſo

so desperately in love with you, that, because her Fortune is not correspondent to her Beauty, I fear will die for your sake. *Laris* who knew by his former passion, that it was possible for one to die for love, were she as beautiful, said he smiling, as she is loving, it is not her fortune, since mine is favorable enough, should part us. Give me but a *Venus*, said he, it matters not whether she be naked or no. Well said I, give me but Twenty Pistols to adorn her, and you shall marry one of the most beautiful, and most vertuous Virgins that ever you saw. There they are, said he, thou hast been faithful to me in my first love, and if thou canst bring me but the Jewel thou hast promised, thou shalt not want thy reward. So the next time I met my love, I proferred her a new, and one of the best Garments then in fashion, as a reward of her kindness, she thankfully received it; and indeed, excepting that Epidemical Disease, that she, as well as all her sex, had been subject too, she was a sweet Creature, and thus adorned a Grace.

Now said I to her, it is true, I have promised you Marriage, but I am a stranger

in

in this place, and not able to keep you at that rate I love you, I do intend therefore to match thee to a young and rich Gentleman, a friend of mine, who wants nothing but such beauty to crown his happiness.

In fine, I acquainted her with the Plot, nor was she averse from my Propositions, since the thing would be so much for her advantage: Therefore I brought her to *Laris*, to whom she appeared so far beyond what she ever had done, that she blinded his eyes, and he knew her not.

It were tedious to rehearse the Discourses that passed between them, but I brought it to pass at last, that within a weeks time she and *Laris* should be married at a Tenants House of his, in the Valley of *Montmorencie*. Which to give it his due praise, is one of the places which Nature seemeth prodigally to have blest, both with Wine and Corn; that by a contrary, their Love would needs succeed, as *Sine Cerere & Bacchо friget* Venus. I promised to procure a Priest, and send him thither, desiring to be excused at Dinner, least by my absence, our house might suspect the truth.

Laris

Paris therefore that day he went to the appointed place, Here are my Keys, said he, go to my Cabinet, and take out what Mondy you want, to take up a Lodging for us, against night, in *Paris*, and to provide what ever else you shall think fitting. I came to the Cabinet, and my curious eye would not be contented with one Bag, but I pried into every Drawer; and when I saw so much Gold and Silver, I was at a stand, whether I should then rob him of all, or no. Nevertheless I left it for a better opportunity, & took no more then at present was needful, and finding the Priests habit in the Chamber that was not yet sent home, I put it on and disguised my self the best I could; for I was resolved to loose nothing that might be got, no not so much as the Priests wages.

Thus I met, married them, and returned undiscovered; but though in the morning early I stole out of our house, and escaped the eyes of all, I could not do it so cautiously in the Evening, but the Kitchin-maid saw me go up Stairs; yet being we were Lodgers, and many came in and out without examination, I passed undiscovered who I was, I soon slipped

off

of my Prieſts Garment, and came down into the Kitchin, to ſee if we were not diſcovered by the Houſhold; but by reaſon that *Lais* was uſed to be out a Hunting ſometimes a day or two, and the Chamber-maid and I had leave, we were not in the leaſt ſuſpected. The Kitchin-maid onely was ſomething jealous of me, for I had always ſhewed her much kindneſs, and as Women in ſuch matters are commonly better noſed then Men, ſmelt ſomething of a Plot. For I no ſooner came near her, but I wiſh you joy, ſaid ſhe, of your new Bride, I perceive you are married to day; for I ſaw the Prieſt go up juſt now to your Chamber. I was, I confeſs, much ſuppriſed at her words, and was ſcarce at the inſtant able to make a good apology, ſhe had aſſaulted me ſo unawares. Nevertheleſs, reſolving now to drive the Nail to the Head. There was indeed, ſaid I, a Prieſt of my acquaintance with me, even now, and is above ſtill writing ſome Prayers for me, but where the Bride is, I cannot tell except it be your ſelf. No ſaid ſhe, there is ſome body you love better in the houſe then I, and ſince I have hitherto been aſhamed to diſcover

cover my love to you, I ſhall henceforth never tell you I love you. Well ſaid I, embracing her, I cannot blame thy jealouſie, my dear, and ſince I ſee thou doeſt really love me, I will now free thee from all ſuſpition that I love any one elſe. The Prieſt is now above writing for me, as I told thee; and if thou art willing, he ſhall immediately marry us. But leaſt your Miſtreſs call you, or my Maſter call me in the mean time, and diſcover our intentions, you ſhall ſtay here below, and I ſhall be above; and the Prieſt ſhall come down and ask thee what is requiſit on thy part, and me on my part; for ſo ſmall diſtance of place ſhall never cauſe us to be leſs lawfully joyned, then if we were both together; and if your Miſtreſs or her Daughter ſee the Prieſt with you, an excuſe will not be wanting, Either that he is your friend, or that he ſtayeth for me.

The poor Wench all inflamed, and ſo far beyond her ſelf, that ſhe might eaſily have been perſwaded to ſtranger and more incredible things then this. I would willingly, my dear, ſaid ſhe, conſent to this; but I would have ſome ſmall time

to make me ready, that the Priest see me not thus. Well said I, that matters not much, since he is a most intimate Friend of mine, nevertheless make all the haste you can to put on some clean Linnen, and in the mean time, I shall acquaint my friend with our design; then embracing her, I went up to my Chamber to send the Priest; and she to hers, to dress her. The desire she had to be married, soon made her ready; and my negligence was never so great as to let the Priest tarry long after: For I had now married *Laris* twice, and was expert in the Art.

Putting on therefore my Priests habit, and altering the colour of my face with a swarthy powder, I had used before for the same purpose, and a patch on my face, I came down to her in the Kitchin; but certainly it would have made a Dog laugh, that had been as conscious as I, to see what countenance she bore at this Marriage. Nevertheless, my strong resolution had so setled my Diaphragm, that I did not so much as smile at the conceit that would have made another burst with laughter. And when I had performed the duty of the Priest, returned to my Chamber, and laid

laid aside my disguise, my colour, and patch, I came down to do the part of a Husband. So that night I had my Bedfellow, as well as *Laris*; for she failed not, when all were in Bed, to come to me; and indeed so imployed me, that I could not spare one minute more to my Muse, then just to acknowledge my good Fortune in this Hexastick.

Darkness that equals all, hath made my Bride
As fair as Laris *Bed-fellow. Then tell,*
What matters, whether foul or fair? Beside
I was the first, he's second at the Well:
Virginities I crop, but he gets none,
And's forc'd when I have done to pick the Bone.

But the next Morning I found so much leisure, as to add these few Lines.

In Black Apparel hitherto I lie
Secure, the colour of my Knavery.
No one suspects the Robes of Holy Men,
And when the Devil's like an Angel, then

'Tis on some great design you'll say, for he
That openly can work so cunningly,
Would never hide himself from Mortals view,
Unless he fear'd we knew him by his hew.
Nay, when the Spirit tempts the Holy One,
He's Pictur'd like a subtil Monk, or none.

CHAP. XX.

His Dream. How he runs away from his Master, robs Laris *of his riches, and goes towards* Orleans. *With a strange adventure that hapned to him in the way.*

SCarce was the Sun risen, but as though he envied our happiness, or desired to see our Faces, he darted a Ray into my Eyes, through the Window, and forced me to acknowledge Day, and part with my *Dalila* for fear we should be discovered. But she was no sooner gone, then a light slumber overwhelmed my Senses, and I dreamed as followeth.

I Went, I thought, in an instant of time, and passed over many Green Groves and Meadows adorned with the verdure of a Fruitful Spring, till at length I came to a fair House, through which I passed into a Pleasant Garden; and of all the rarities that I saw, for they were more then my memory could comprehend, I remembred this onely, That I saw upon a large Vine a White Dove, sitting on a fair Vine; and whilest I looked upon her, there came a strange Bird that courted her, and no sooner had trodden her, but fell down, and I could no more see him. After he was vanished, I thought it grew Night, and by the Light of the Moon, I discovered, That I was near a City, where I saw the same Bird, I had before seen to vanish, rise again out of the Ground, but his Feathers were off, and he ran as conscious of his nakedness to hide himself; but there came an innumerable company of other Fowl about him, and all plucked some of their Feathers off, and stuck them on his Back, till at length he flew away with them; and I, that even now, thought I had been near a City, found my self in a Church yard, where a Crow was picking a hole in the

Ground; whence on a ſudden, the Bird I had ſeen before, flew out with a Golden Bell on his foot; making a noiſe with it, and rejoycing at his eſcape; and at the Riſing Sun, which I thought appeared ſo bright, that it dazled my Eyes, and ſo I awoke.

This Dream was ſo lively in my thoughts, that I could ſcarce baniſh it thence; nevertheleſs, my mind ran ſo on *Laris* Cabinet, that I could not reſt till I had reſolved to make my ſelf Maſter of it. This made me riſe at Seven, for my Maſter ſeldom roſe till Ten, and go into the City, and buy me a diſguiſe at the Brokers; which having done, I came home and packt up the Treaſure; and as my ambition was always too great to be controul'ed by another mans will, I took this opportunity to ſet my ſelf free, both from my Maſter, and the ill conſequences that might follow the wickedneſs I had committed under the colour of a Prieſt.

And thus I took my leave of *Paris*, till coming into a convenient place, I ſtript my ſelf, and threw my old Cloaths with a great Stone into the River; then putting on thoſe I had newly bought, I took the

way

way to *Orleans*, and having no other company, then my thoughts, I made these short reflexions on what was past.

On Paris, *alluding to the Epigram in the Fifteenth Chapter.*

Paris, *'tis true, I came to drive a trade,*
As many other Citizens have done,
Within thy Walls; but when to break afraid
They are, how ſoon like Phanthaſms they are gone.
Thus, leaſt my credit crack, I run away
With others Money, richer far then they.

To his Maſter, the Good Engliſh Gentleman.

THE Dog, the Fable ſays, did once invite
The Woolf unto his Kennel by the light
Of Cynthia's *Beams, and ſhew'd him all his food,*
Horſe-fleſh, and Bullocks Livers, freſh and good,
A Kennel large, clean Straw, and this to try
If he would be of the ſame Family.

The Woolf that oftentimes had wanted meat,
And in the Winter ſtarv'd for want of heat,
Lik'd all things well, and thought it meet to dwell,
And eat ſuch meat, and live in ſuch a Cell.
But when he ſaw the Coller hanging by,
Farewel, ſaid he, I'd rather ſtarve and die
In Liberty, then to be chain'd and have
The greateſt Plenty, being but a Slave.

Nomine mutato narratur fabula de { *te* / *me*

But while I was thus muſing, on a ſudden the Clouds gathered to ſuch a thickneſs, the Wind blew ſo vehemently, and the Rain fell ſo impetuouſly, That I began to fear it proceeded from ſome extraordinary cauſe, rather then the common operation of Nature, as *Virgil* ſaid in his *Geor.* 1.

Sæpe ego, cum flavis meſſorem induceret arvis
Agricola, & fragili jam ſtringeret hordea culmo,
Omnia ventorum concurrere prælia vidi,

Quæ

Que gravidam late segetem ab radicibus imis
Sublime expulsam eruerent, ita turbine nigro
Ferret hyems culmumque levem, stipulasque volantes.
Sæpe etiam immensum cælo venit agmen aquarum,
Et fœdam glomerant tempestatem imbribus atris
Collectæ ex alto nubes, ruit arduus æther,
Et pluvia ingenti sata læta boumque labores
Diluit, implentur fossæ, & cava flumina crescunt
Cum sonitu, fervetque fretis spirantibus æquor.
Ipse pater media nimborum in nocte corusca
Fulmina molitur dextra, quo maxima motu
Terra tremit, fugere feræ, & mortalia corda
Per gentes humilis stravit pavor. Ille flagranti
Aut Atho, *aut* Rhodopen, *aut alta* Ceraunia *telo*
Dejecit, ingeminant Austri, *& densissimus imber,*
Nunc nemora ingenti vento nunc littora plangunt.

So vehement was the Storm at last, and the Waters fell in so great abundance, that had it not been for the shelter the Trees afforded me, I had there perished according to my deserts. There came at length a Man with two Horses, almost drowned, as he seemed to be, to the same place for shelter. How far friend, said I, have I to *Montlherrie*, a league, said he, and better: and though you have time enough to go thither, if the weather were fair, yet I fear you will meet so many Washes by the way, that you cannot pass on foot. If it be so, said I, (for I knew not whether he were a robber or no, and would not in any wise give him reason to suspect I had store of Money about me) and you are pleased to lend me the Horse you lead; though I have not Money here at present, yet when I come to *Montlherrie*, where my Friends live, I shall give you a Crown, and greater satisfaction, if that be not sufficient. It is agreed, said he, and put the Bridle in my hand, let us go, I see the Wind ceaseth, the Rain is stopt, and the Air cleareth. He had no sooner said it, but the day was in an excellent mediocrity of temper, not in the least disposed to a

Cloud,

Cloud, and the gentle Wind rather fanned then disturbed the Air: So I mounted my Horse, who needed no Spurs to set him forwards; for as soon as ever I was upon his Back, his Master led the way, and I followed in so full a carrear, that I knew not how I went, till just at the end of the Town *Montlherrie*, which is a place old and ruinous, he stopped as instantly, so that I fell at least three yards from him; and before I could recover my self, followed his Master, who swift as the Wind was returning back to the place, where first I met him. This made me conceive, he could be no other then one of the *Dæmones Montani*: For I remembred I had heard a story to the same purpose, very elegantly expressed in these words.

Urbs antiqua jacet celebri contermina Rheno
Vangionum *longe non ea distat humo:*
Nescio qui Nemetes *hanc incoluisse ferunter,*
Sunt ubi Francorum *busta quaterna ducum.*
Cæsareis *sedes fuit illa cohortibus olim,*
Nomen ab id Grajum *spira vocata tenet.*

Hic humili modicis a ſtirpe cohortibus olim
Exiguæ quidam Navita puppis erat:
Qui talamo piſces linoque madente ſolebat
Fallere, jam radios ſole tegente ſuos.
Is dum forte leves hamos ac retia tractat,
Non procul a ripa lubrice Rhene tua:
Ecce per obſcuræ tenebroſa crepuſcula noctis
Obtulit ignoti ſe nova forma juri.
Atro tectus erat monachum ſimulante cucullo:
Utque ſolent raſo vertice tonſus erat:
Nauta propinquantem conſueto more ſalutans
Ecquid agis ſeræ tempore noctis? Ait.
Ille ſub hæc: adſum longinquis miſſus ab oris
Nuncius, ipſe tua me rogo lintre vehas.
Ut cito tranſmiſſe contingam flumine ripam,
Dixerat, aſſumptum navita lintre tulit.
Jamque fere medio curſus nox atra ferebat,
Floxaque lenta pigri plauſtra bootis erant,
Cum procul in viridi venientes margine ripæ,
Quinque cuculligeros rurſus adeſſe videt.
Exoptatque illis piſcator ut ante, ſalutem,
Quoque velint media pergere nocte rogat.
E quibus unus ait: Nos magna pericula cogunt,
Obſcura tutas carpere nocte vias.

Omnibus

Omnibus inviſi ſumus, intentatque nefandam
Sacrificis nobis turba profana necem.
At te ſi quis amor tangit, ſi cura piorum,
Tranſuche navigio corpora noſtra tuo.
Ut tumidas lati ſuperemus flominis undas,
Neve moraturis impediamur aquis:
Sic optata tuis fortuna laboribus adſit
In tua ſic multus retia piſcis eat.
Annuit & remo propellens Navita cymbam,
Mox jubet adducta ſcandere puppe ratem.
Sed mihi quis dixit ſolvet mercede laborem?
Alter ad hæc, nullas ſcis quod habemus opes,
Raraque percipimus diſcordi munera vulgo,
Nec tamen ingratos nos habiturus eris:
Si nos in ſalido rurſus fortuna locabit,
Præmia pro tali digna labore feres.
Solverat extremo piſcator margine navem,
Jamque fere medias illa ſecabat aquas:
Sidereas removent ſubeuntia nubila ſtellas,
Præcipiti fertur puppis & icta noto:
Incipiunt nigris horreſcere fluctibus undæ,
Sævaque tempeſtas imbribus orta furit.
Ipſa repentino faſus pallore timorem
Nauta, quid hæc, inquit, vult nova cauſa malis.
Nulla tamen pluviæ venturæ ſigna notabam
Sol ubi flagrantes æquore merſit equos

Nulla

Nulla lacus usquam circumvolitabat hirundo,
Ulla nec est oculis Ardea visa meis:
Tum nec luna nigro surgebat pallida vultu,
Clarus & occiduo lumine Phœbus erat.
Talia jactanti disturbant verba procellæ,
Impediuntq; graves ora loquentis aquæ,
Pene procellosi subuersaque turbinis ictu
Navis, & insanis fluctibus hausta fuit.
Ardua sublatas tendens ad sidera palmas,
A superis aram navita poscit opem:
Quid facis? è Monachis ait unus, & improbe dixit,
Desine, voce tua sollicitare Deum.
Tum magna tollens immanem pondere contum
Nauta parum fœlix quo prius usus erat:
Illius hos humeros pulsat atque terga fatigat,
Cæsus ad extremum dum fuit usque necem,
Proditus est tandem perversi Dæmonis æstu,
Detecta usque fuit fraude patente dolus.
Vana recesserunt in inanes corpora ventos,
Mansit & ingratus naveolentis odor.
Mox quoq; purgato fugerunt nubila cælo,
Et rediit pulsis aura serena notis.
Territus hoc monstro gelidum sine sanguine corpus.
Tollit, & ad ripam navita puppe redit.
Isthic in viridi procumbit languidus herba,
Donec ab Eois sol fuit ortus aquis.

Mane

Mane sub occasum pulsis Hyperione stellis
Ducitur a puero præterennte domum:
Omnia commemorans præsentibus æger amicis
Clausit adhuc illo fata suprema die.
Postera cum croceis fulgens aurora quadrigis
Protulerat roseas ore nitente genas,
Accidit & similis diversa tempore casus,
Acta sed eventu res meliore fuit.
Summa procul radiis feriente cacumina Phabo
Carpebat solus mane viator Iter.
Qui Nemetum *postquam digressus finibus esset*
Primus ubi positus distat ab urbe lapis:
Adventare nigro sectam velamine currum
Conspicit hic monachis currus onustus erat:
Ordine quem juncti septem traxere jugales
Quarta sed ablato defuit axe rota;
Quique manu flexas auriga tenebat habenas,
Terribili naso conspiciendus erat.
Attonitus curru stat præterennte viator,
Nec monachos illos spectra sed esse videt.
Evolat extemplo sublatus ad æthera currus,
Mistaque cum fumo flamma sequuta fuit.
Tristis & infaustum belli mortalibus omen
Horrida per nubes arma dedere sonum.
Ille statim rediens, quæ viderat, indicat urbi
Est ea res certa cognita vera fide.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXI.

He goes to Eſtampes, *where three accidents befall him in one night.*

THe foulneſs of the weather and the accident that befell me by the way, made me take Inn at *Montliberrie* that night, but the next morning as ſoon as day, I ſet forth on my journey towards *Orleans*, and at length came to *Eſtampes*, where at a diſtance I could perceive an infinite company of People in a fair green Medow; but what the occaſion of ſo great a concourſe might be, I could not imagine, till at length approaching nearer, I perceived they were people of all Ages and Sexes, and of all conditions, dancing and making merry in ſeveral companies. Old Wives I ſaw which could not ſet foot to ground without a Crutch in the Streets, had here taught their feet to Amble: and others were ſo ragged, that a ſwift Galliard would almoſt have ſhaked them into nakedneſs; but leaving theſe wrinkled Brows, I proceeded farther to a company of freſh Beauties, and indeed

indeed I ſaw ſuch, that they forced me to ſtay ſome days longer then I intended before I came to it; I took my Lodging in one of the beſt Inns, and the next day furniſhed my ſelf both with good Apparel and a Horſe, for I reſolved never to accept of any in the road again for *Old Nick*'s ſake. The next morning I took my Horſe and rode out to ſee the Town, which ſeemeth to have been of great importance, there being five Walls and Gates in a length, one before another, ſo that it appeareth to be rather a continuation of many Towns together, then ſimply one; and whilſt I was gazing up and down whereſoever curioſity led me, I eſpied at laſt a Woman very fair and of moſt aimable parts, this made me look too long upon her, being the handſomeſt object that ever I had ſeen; Inſomuch that ſhe took notice at length of me as ſhe looked out of the window, and perceiving by my Curioſity and Gallantry, that I was both a ſtranger and no mean perſon, ſhe beckoned to me to goe to her door, and went her ſelf from the window to meet me at the door; where ſhe no ſooner came, but you are welcome my friend, ſaid ſhe, if you pleaſe to light

off

off your Horſe and come in, and although you may wonder that being a Woman and a ſtranger to you, I offer ſuch kindneſs, yet your admiration ſhall ceaſe when I acquaint you with the reaſon of it. I did indeed much wonder at the civility of this Woman, and the grace wherewith ſhe uttered each word, but above all, her comely Perſonage was ſuch, as it made her appear to my Eyes rather a Goddeſs then any humane Creature; therefore partly moved with her deſires, partly with my own curioſity, to ſee the end of this adventure, I made this reply unto her. *Madam, I know not any thing in me that deſerveth any ſuch kindneſs at your hands, being both a ſtranger to the place, yet ſince it is your Command that I ſtay, and there is no denial to be made to ſo much Beauty, I am willing to do your pleaſure.* Then ſhe called one of her ſervants, and giving him charge to look well to my Horſe, ſhe conducted me through a ſpacious Hall into a fair Appartment richly adorned with Pictures, and ſcented with Perfumes. Now, Sir, ſaid ſhe, I ſhall in few words tell you the reaſon of my boldneſs and the cauſe of my importunity to make you ſtay.

My

My Husband belated one night as he returned from Hunting came to a poor mans Cottage, and desired a Lodging if it were possible for him and his two men, (for the Roads were then filled with Robbers, and he was a man that never went out without Money and good Horses) the poor Man who lived there with his Wife and two Sons and one Daughter the most contented life in the World, free from the griping Cares and tumultuous noise of the City, busying his thoughts onely to enjoy, not encrease his Estate. Gentle stranger, said he, you are welcome to my poor Farme, and to what ever in it can make you so, and if you are pleased to accept my proffer, you may for the time you are here, think your self Lord of the House, and Command me as your Servant: Mr. *Beauto* (for so was my Husbands name) admiring much the civility of the stranger, and knowing there was no better answer to be made to so generous a person, then the accepting of his proffers, I am exceedingly obliged to you, said he, if you should lend me but the meanest part of your House to shelter my self and my two men this night, for as much as the

the Roads are full of Robbers, and I owe my life to your kindneſs. But ſince you proffer me your ſervice, which I do in no wiſe merit, nor can by any means requite; I ſhall certainly for ever hold you as a perſon to whom I am moſt indebted and obliged. In ſhort, he was conducted in, and the Table was ſpread, not with the ſuperfluous compoſures that Art hath found out for Luxury, but the good and wholſome Food that Nature hath provided for us.

This put me in mind of that pleaſant Story of *Philemon* and *Baucis* when they entertained the Gods, according to the Poets words,

Ponitur hic bicolor ſincera bacca Minervæ,
Conditaque in liquida corna autumnalia fece,
Intybaque & radix & lactis maſſa coacti,
Ovaque non acri leviter verſata favilla,
Prunaque & in patulis redolentia mala caniſtris,
Hic nux, hic mixta eſt rugoſis carica palmis,
Et de purpureis collecta vitibus uva.
Omnia fictilibus nitide.

They

They on the Table set Minerva's Fruit;
The double coloured Olive, Endive Root,
Radish and Cheese, and to the Board there came
A Dish of Eggs near roasted by the flame.
Next they had Nuts, course Oats, and Lenten Figs,
And Apples from a Basket made with Twigs.
And Plumbs and Grapes cut newly from the Tree,
All serv'd in Earthen Dishes Huswifery.)

She continued her Story farther, that her Husband was so extreamly contented with that kind of food, that he had often made mention of the happiness that poor Man enjoyed; nay, that even on his death-bed, when he could scarce remember any thing, he called her to him, and embracing her, *My dear Wife*, said he, *I am now departing into another World, and ought to have little thought of this; yet the civilities of that poor man do so run in my mind, that I desire of thee, and I hope thou wilt perform it when I am dead, being the last Petition I am like to make; That if ever stranger, whether poor or rich come near thy habi-*

tation, thou entertain for my ſake. He would have ſaid more, but Death tied his Tongue.

Now this is my reaſon, ſaid ſhe, that hath made me ſo bold as to deſire you to ſtay in my houſe, and I hope you will, if your occaſions permit, lodge here this Night, and receive the civilities that my Husband, whom, of all Men, I loved moſt dearly, hath obliged me by his laſt words, to ſhew unto you. Madam, ſaid I, though I ought not to think my ſelf worthy of the leaſt of theſe favors you have already done, and conſequently by no means, be ſo bold as to receive new ones from you; yet if the Prayers of your dying Husband, who was ſo dear unto you, and the love you bare him, command me to ſtay in this place to Night, I muſt of neceſſity conſent, or be the unworthieſt Man in the World.

In concluſion I was entertained all that day with the greateſt civilities imaginable, and at Supper, in the ſame manner, till it grew late, then was I conducted into a fair Bed-chamber, and ſoon after the Lady took her leave of me, leaving only a Lackey in the room with me to wait upon

upon me. Ever since Supper I found my Body something looser then ordinary, and therefore desired the youth to show me, if there were any Privy near the place (for I feared I might have occasion in the Night) so he shewed me a Private Closet there by, in which was a Close-stool placed at the farther-end; so I dismissed the youth, and went to my Bed, meditating on what was past, but little dreaming on what was to come: For her relation seemed so probable, and she uttered it with so much passion, That I could not believe any Woman in the World could have acted a part so well.

Sometimes I thought on the Knight of *Pavia*'s entertaining the *Cyprian* Merchants, sometime the good fortune he met with in *Saladines* Pallace came into my mind, sometimes the accident that befel me by the way; for the Night was very hot, and the multiplicity of my thoughts disturbed my rest so long, till at last I began to slumber rather then sleep; and I thought I saw before my eyes, the same Bird I dreamed of that morning I left *Paris*, naked and coming out of the ground, as before he had appeared, but

ſomething I had eaten at Supper not agreeing with my ſtomach, interrupted the continuation of my dream, and forced me to riſe. The Moon was then up, and with the brightneſs of her light equalled the ſplendor almoſt of him that gave it. So I eaſily found my way to my Cloſet, yet not without ſtumbling for all that, that it ſeemed an ill omen to me of ſome future accident that ſhould befal me; nevertheleſs, my neceſſity preſſed me on, and I went in, but ſcarce were both Feet within the Threſh-ld, when touching upon a Trap door, I fell up to the middle in a Privy, advantageous onely in this, That the ſoftneſs kept me from bruiſing my Limbs, notwithſtanding I fell two ſtories. Now did I begin to curſe woman, and her whole Sex, that before I always adored, angry with my ſelf, that I had never thought it was true that the Poet ſaid of them.

Truſt not the thing call'd Woman, for ſhe's worſe
Then all ingredients clap'd into a curſe.
Were ſhe but ugly, peeviſh, proud, a whore,
Perjur'd, or painted; ſo ſhe were no more,

I could forgive her, and connive at this,
Alleaging ſtill that ſhe a Woman is:
But ſhe's far worſe, and will in time foreſtal
The Devil, and be the damning of us all.

But it was no time now to complain in ſuch terms, and the preſent danger I was in, drew off my mind from ſuch thoughts, to conſult for my ſafety. I groped on every ſide to try if I could find any way of evaſion, I found at laſt a ſmall cranny in the Boards, which being ſomewhat rotted with the moiſture of the place, I broke ſo big till I had good hold for both hands, then with all my ſtrength (and men in ſuch danger, are certainly more valid then at other times) I broke down a large Plank, and beating down the Dirt with it, I made a paſſage enough for my whole Body; but when I was out, I was at as great a ſtand as before, and knew not whether it were better to return and die ſecretly, then put my ſelf to an open ſhame. Nevertheleſs, ſince the Stars and Moon alone were conſcious to my miſeries hitherto, I reſolved to go waſh my ſelf at ſome Pump or Well, and then I might forge an excuſe in the Morning, that I had been robbed

of my Cloaths in the Night: So I went towards the Street, for I found my ſelf on the backſide of the Town, and I had ſeen many Pumps and Wells the day before, as I viewed each Street. So I came at length into the great Street, but as I was ſearching for ſome Water, I perceived Five or ſix men in a company coming towards me; ſo I ran to hide my ſelf in an Entery thereby, till ſuch time they were gone paſt; but it hapned then being about Twelve and one of the Clock, that the Watch were coming their round. And this knot of Theeves (for ſuch they were) to ſhelter themſelves from their Diſcoverers took Harbor in the ſame place. I crouded my ſelf behinde the door as near as poſſible to the Corner, the reſt did the like. But, I think, he fared beſt that was fartheſt off from me, for the next to me was almoſt in as bad a caſe as my ſelf. But they all being well noſed, began to ſmell the perfume, each accuſing one another; ſo that when I ſaw I could lie hid no longer, Gentlemen ſaid I, and told them in order what had hapned to me, adding many lies, and leaving out much of the truth. You ſee in what a caſe I

am, and if you will but conduct me to a place where I may finde some Water, or give me any Cloaths that you can spare, I may prove profitable to you in your designs, for I am in a desperate condition, and there is nothing so difficult or perilous to be attempted, that I would not readily do to raise my fortune.

They were much surprised at my words, and finding by the Passion that I feigned, I was a resolute person, and that my necessity would make me prove faithfull: swear, said they, by thy head; for if thou shrinkest from us, thou loosest it, and by the head of our Captain: For if thou art as one of us, thou must serve him in all his commands, and we shall not onely save thy life, but according to thy valor and witty designs, thou shalt share in our Booties. So I swore according to their solemnity, and they conducted me to a Well thereby, and let me down in the Bucket to cleanse my self; but before I could cleanse my self, for I was like the Blackamoor to be washed white, from the extremity of Nastiness, a good part of the Night was spent, and the Watch was returning, so they fled

to ſecure themſelves, and left me in the Well. Then came into my mind the Fable of the Fox and the Goat that went down into the Well, and when the Fox had climbed over the Goats back, he laughed heartily at the Goats ſimplicity, that had deſcended before ſhe knew how ſhe ſhould aſcend again.

But at length it ſo fell out (for as I before told you, the Nights were very hot, it being then the middle of Summer) that ſome of the Watch were dry, and Water here was the common drink of all thoſe, whoſe Purſes could not bear the ſtrength of Wine; ſo that they came to this Well to drink, and one beginning to turn the Winch, I think, ſaid he, the Devil is in the Well, for the Bucket is ſo heavy I can ſcarce move it; then the reſt began to help him, and ſo drew it up. I was no ſooner at the top, but I leaped out amongſt them, and they were all ſo frighted to ſee a naked man in white, or rather a ſpirit come out of the Well, that he thought himſelf the ſafeſt and wiſeſt, that quitted the place faſteſt. They flew away as faſt as people in ſuch a caſe are uſed, nay, beyond the common ſwiftneſs. For

Pedibus

Pedibus timor addidit alas.

So I remained in the place alone, and my companions seeing all that had passed, knew the Watch was dispersed and frighted enough that night, and soon returned to me, one gave me Breeches, another an old Coat and Stockings, another Shooes, whether they were their own, or they had stoln them I examined not, but thanked them and put them on: well, said they amongst themselves, we have gained nothing this night worth our pains hitherto; it is now the dead time of the night, the Watch is disturbed and broke, the Moon favoureth, and we may easily attempt something both to initiate the strangers, and to benefit our selves.

Gentlemen, said I, if you will take the advice of a stranger, and consent to what I shall propose, being willing to revenge my loss, I shall lead you to the house where this accident befel me; I know the passages of it, that it may easily be forced open, and that we shall gain a considerable booty therein, and I hope in this service I shall so behave my self as your Captain

tain ſhall not think ill that you have admitted me to your ſociety: they agreed to follow my advice, ſo we took our way directly to the Houſe (for there were not many ſtreets, and I eaſily found it out) and having examined all parts, we broke in at the weakeſt, which was under a window, there being nothing but a thin wall of Plaiſter and Laths, the reſt of the Houſe was Stone according to the French manner of building, and very ſtrong.

Now Gentlemen, ſaid I, I know theſe Chambers, do you diſperſe your ſelves over the outer parts of the houſe, ſo ſhall we ſoon make an end of the buſineſs: one went this way, another that, but I went directly to my own chamber and packt up my own Clothes, and whatſoever elſe was portable, then I turned to her Apartment (for it was near, and I had obſerved it the day before) and broke open the door; the noiſe awaked the wicked woman, and ſhe asked who was there, but I made no other anſwer, then you ſhall ſoon know, thou moſt unworthy of thy Sexe, and ran to her Bed, ſhe thought of nothing but death, the reward of her wickedneſs, and was not able to ſpeak one

word

word in her justification; so I dragged her from her Bed where she lay, with my sword in my hand, threatening present death if she offered to cry out, and brought her to the Trap she had prepared for others, take, said I, the reward of thy crime, for though I should have thought it impossible for so much Beauty to have harbored so much inhumanity, yet since my experience make me certain of it, though thou deserv'st a thousand deaths, yet in pity of thy Sexe, and according to justice, I shall inflict no more on thee then thou preparedst for me: then I threw her down without staying for her Answer or Apologie.

——Nec Lex est justior ulla
Quam necis artifices arte perire sua.

Then I went into her chamber and took the spoils of my enemy, and going down I found them all ready to depart; thence they conducted me down the great street, and brought me at last to an out-house at the end of the Town, where we no sooner knock'd but we were let in; it was then about four in the morning, and we found

a Table ready ſpread with good Cheer and Wine, there we all ſate down, and every one related his good ſucceſs, and what he had taken; not long after our Captain roſe, a Man of the biggeſt ſize that ever I ſaw any, and ſince his courage was anſwerable to his ſtature, I was very glad I had Liſted my ſelf under him; they related to him the whole adventure, and how I came into their company, and how I behaved my ſelf in the attempt. My misfortune gave every one cauſe of mirth, ſo that we paſſed the forepart of the morning very merrily, and the Captain welcomed me with a full Bowl and many generous expreſſions (for he was indeed as I learned afterwards a Lords Son in *France*, but his Father for ſome treaſonable words loſt both his Life and Eſtate, and left him behind to play upon the Subjects what his Father could not act on the King) thou art welcome ſtranger, ſaid he, to our Club, and if our kind of life agree with thy humour, I ſhall in few words ſhew thee thy Trade, and inſtruct thee in what thou art to do: If thou canſt procure ſo much Money as to buy thy ſelf a Horſe, and Piſtols, and other furniture for the Road,

Road, thou ſhalt immediately this day be of my company, if not, have but a little patience, as theſe have. You ſee how they fare, they live merrily, and want nothing, till ſuch time as Fortune provide thee one; for we are here of two ſorts, Horſmen, and Foot-men; not that there is any diſtinction amongſt us, or that one Face is better then another, but becauſe thoſe that are but newly driven to take up this kind of life, by ſome ſad accident or other, ſeldom have Money enough to furniſh themſelves with Horſes at firſt.

Sir, ſaid I, I ſhall wholly devote my ſelf to this ſervice, and ſince I am wholly indebted to theſe Gentlemen for my life, I am no leſs beholding to you for your kind reception of me into the company. I ſhall this day provide me with a Horſe, and other Accoutrements for the Field: For I will tell you a good reaſon, ſaid I, why I will never borrow that Beaſt, and thereupon told them what hapned me in the way, which cauſed great mirth to all the hearers. Whileſt we were thus diſcourſing there came in at the back door two Horſmen with a great Cloak-bag, which

which I ſuppoſe was newly taken in the Road; they ſaluted me with no leſs civility, then the reſt had done, and were very much contented with the relation of my adventures. After every one had drunk and eaten what he pleaſed, the Cloth was removed, and inſtead of it, was brought the Cloak-bag firſt, being a more noble prize taken upon the Road. What it contained, was diſtributed amongſt the company; but the Captain had three parts, the Horſmen two, and the reſt a ſingle part onely; ſo that my ſhare was very inconſiderable. Then were brought all the Packets, each of us had brought out of the Houſe, that we broke open which was more conſiderable, for we were in all Fifteen Perſons that were to have ſhares; the Captain, and five other Horſmen, and nine Footmen; and yet I had four Piſtols and odd Money for my ſhare, beſides the Cloaths, and other things of value, which were to be ſent beyond Sea, and ſold in a ſtrange place, and afterwards to be divided. My own Cloaths were amongſt the reſt, and the Captain was ſo generous, that for all they were part of the Booty, and might lawfully have been

ſent

sent away amongst the rest, he gave me them, saying,

Shitten luck, is good luck.

It being then about Noon, every one departed to his own Lodgings, some in the Town, others there, with order to return to the same place at Eight in the Evening. Then I put on my Cloaths and went to my Inn; for my Cloak-bag was there, and a Hundred Crowns I had left in it, besides Jewels and Precious Stones. Here I began to consider what had passed, and to clear my self of all fear, since my ill Dream was now come, which you may read in the Twentieth Chapter. The Dove was the Lady, the Bird that courted her, was my self. He seemed to rise out of the Ground without his Feathers, that represented my nakedness when I came out of the Privy. Other Fowls cloathed him, such were the Thieves that lent me their Garments. He came out of the Hole that the Crow had pricked in the Church-yard; that is, by the means of my Companions, whose deeds are the deeds of darkness, and represent the colour of the Crow, I was freed from all fear of

Death,

Death, and came flying out with a Bell; that is, with my Booty, rejoycing at his good fortune, and the Morning Light; and that was the time we returned from our Robbery, to our Club, and were ſo merry concerning our good ſucceſs.

Thus many times by Dreams, are we forewarned of the future according to the Poets,

Somnia ponduſ habent. Ovid.

And the French Poet, the Famous Ronſard, of whom it is ſaid, *Gallia Ronſardo quod Græcia debet* Homero, is of the ſame opinion.

Des Dieux çà bas viennent certains les ſonges,
Et Dieu n'eſt pas artiſan des menſonges.

Thoſe Dreams the Gods us ſend, have ſure event,
For they to couzenage never give conſent.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXII.

He enters into the Society of Thieves at Estampes. Their manner of life.

I Had both Money and Jewels, Riches enough, one would have thought, to keep any Man from extravagancy, and the abominable crime of being a Theif. But alas, it was as hard for me to live soberly, and out of action, as it was for the prudenteſt of Men to do otherwiſe. For the crooked Branch can ſcarce be made ſtraight, no more then the ſtraight one crooked, and

Quo ſemel eſt imbuta recens ſervabit Odorem
Teſta diu.

Thus though I wanted for nothing, I entered my ſelf into the *Society of Thieves*, a thing few would embrace, though driven to it by neceſſity. I bought me a Horſe, the beſt I could get; Piſtols, Boots, and all the other Accoutrements of War, and at the hour appointed, which was Eight of the Clock that Evening, we all met. Then did I underſtand all the Ceremonies of the Trade. Firſt, I was kindly

welcomed by all, and after some short discourse, and that we had drunken freely of the best Wines, I swore to these Articles.

1. TO obey the Captains commands in all things.

2. To be faithful in the rest in all Designs and Attempts.

3. To be always present at the Meetings, that the Captain should appoint, either in that, or in any other place, without his leave to do the contrary.

4. To be ready at all hours, by Day and by Night upon Call.

5. Never to desert the Company to the last breath.

6. Never to flie from an equal number of Adversaries.

7. To withhold nothing privately of a Booty taken.

8. To help one another, whether Imprisoned, or in any other Distress.

9. Never to leave their Friends Body, whether Wounded or Dead, in the Enemies power.

10. To conceal nothing of the rest, though apprehended and put to the Rack.

11. That

11. That if enriched by these means, I desired to leave the Society, I should leave my accoutrements likewise, as Horse, Boots, and Pistols to the Captain, and never confess of the rest.

12. That in case any person of the company did otherwise, I would at all opportunities, whether by my self or with any of my companions, punish him with present death.

After I had sworn to these twelve Articles, they made me understand the rest of their Orders. That the Horsemen took the Office of the Captain upon them, every one for a moneths space in their Order. He had a trebble share, two parts as he was a Horseman and had his Beast to feed, and a third part which he should lay out in Wine and Meat for the use of the company, and give an account of it publickly before the rest at the months end.

During the time his Office lasted, he went out no oftner then he pleased, but rather commanded the rest then accompanied them, and in case he neglected to prepare them Wine and Meat ready against their return, he lost all his part in that nights booty. The Horsemen had a dou-

ble part because of their Beast, and in case any one were wounded and could not be present, nor officiate, he had his portion nevertheless, and the next officiated for him. The Footman had but a single share, as well because he had no Beast to maintain, as that he was new come and had undergone least danger of his life; and amongst them every night one in his turn stay'd up to let in the rest, either at the back or fore-door, as need required, that when they came all things might be in readiness for their reception, and if pursued they might be housed in an instant.

This House had been bought out-right on the publick Charge formerly and so was another at *Orleans*, where in time of danger we might be sheltred: and every moneth at our Captains appointment two of our company kept it by turns, one Horseman and another Footman, they had their shares as well as the rest, and their business was onely to find out booties, to give intelligence of passengers to the rest, and keep a clear correspondence from Town to City; we had half-way-houses likewise, though not so large as these, and had a

Bill

Bill ready always to put on any of their doors in case they were to be searcht on any Suspition, and their Furniture was so small, that it was impossible any one could guess it a shelter for so many as we were in company upon the Roads. Nevertheless we had in each a large Vault under the ground, and a door to it that was not easily discernable; here in the greatest danger that could be, we might securely drink our Wine, that was so much the better by how much it was kept the cooler; here could we bury a dead friends body with the greatest secresie, and then wash down the sorrow: to which purpose and to take away all fear of death, we had a Cup made out of a dead mans Scull, that at every meeting went round the Table. Not unlike the old Ægyptian custom that the Græcian Historian *Herodotus* mentioneth; *How that at their greatest Feasts, and when there was greatest cause of mirth, a Skeleton was brought round the Table, and the bearer cry'd, Drink and be merry, for you see what you must be.*

These were the Ceremonies of the Society, and the Mysteries of our Iniquity;

'twould be tedious to relate the rest, being of smaller moment and inconsiderable: I shall add therefore but two or three lines more, and then proceed to my first adventure.

Since all that breath are subject to the pow'r
Of death, and all expect the fatal hour,
What matter is't whither early or late
I die, since I am sure to bend to fate.
And this I know, of all the lives that be
The Thieve's the best, none lives so merrily.
Perhaps you'll say we're true and honest men,
And in our calling so are we, what then?
Nay this by my experience I find,
That Thieves of all men bear the truest mind.
You Tradesmen fall upon and eat each other,
But we live friends as Brother doth to Brother.

CHAP. XXII.

His first adventure upon the Road after he was entered in the Society of Thieves at Estampes, *one of his companions is wounded, but at length they come off with victory.*

WE were ordered by our Captain to be ready at 4 of the Clock the next morning, three betwixt *Estampes* and *Angerville*, and the like number between *Angerville* and *Orleans*, for *Angerville* is about six Leagues distant from *Estampes*, and standeth in the middle between it and *Orleans*. For our Captain was advised by our Scouts at *Orleans*, that a Gentleman set forth thence towards *Paris* betimes that morning with a great sum of Money; but because I was newly come and knew not well the Roads, was allotted that I should be with two more between *Estampes* and *Angerville*, and three of our best experienced Blades should lie next *Orleans*, according to this Order we went to our several stations, but they that lay next *Orleans* missed of their boo-

ty, for the Gentleman had taken a private road. The morning was fair and clear, and several companies of passengers went by unmolested, till at length the coast was clear, and there appeared a Gentleman onely, and his Man; we knew not but this might be the man, and therefore changed our intention of going in equal number, and resolved all three to set upon him. The Gentleman perceiving three well mounted to ride towards him, and that it were a shame to fly from us upon suspition onely, came manfully towards us, speaking something to his Man, whether to give him notice of his suspition, I know not, or to encourage him if any danger should befal. But so it fell out, that as soon as we met and put them to a stand, the Gentleman drew forth a Pistol ready charged and cock'd, and fired it at us, the Bullet fell low and wounded one of my companions in the Thigh, which gave us no time to talk longer; so I closed in to prevent further mischief, and as he drew forth the other Pistol, I gave him such a weighty blow upon his Shoulder with my Sword, that by weakening his Muscles I frustrated

ted his intentions, and forced him to leave hold of his Case of me, then I drew it, whilst another laid hold on the Man, and secured the Cloak-bag. Sir, said I, if your Life be dearer to you then your Money (and certainly though Money may, yet Life can never be recovered) presume not to resist any longer to your own destruction. He seemed extremely angred at these words, and by his looks plainly showed he had rather part with his Blood then his Money, had not the wound in his right arm prevented him to make use of his sword. If I die, said he, I shall be cured both of this wound, and delivered from all the other evils that are incident to Humane Nature; but to lie wounded in a strange place without Friends and Money, is a misery far exceeding the pains and pangs of death. You shall find, said I (for I had compassion on his misery, and was not yet hardned in the Trade) Friends and Money where you expect none, and thereupon out of his own Cloak-bag I gave him six Pistols, and out of my pocket 3 Plaister (for we were always furnished with them for our own use.)

Same

Sanus Achillea remeavit Telephus hasta.

So *Achilles* healed *Telephus* with the same weapon that wounded him, and thus we left him, and came off with our booty, which amounted to the value of One hundred and threescore pounds, for the Man was a Jeweller at *Orleans*, and was going to *Paris* to buy Rings and Precious Stones. This good success gave all our company leisure for two or three days to rest themselves; and after we had made merry and divided the spoil, every one praising my Noble behaviour in the adventure; we drunk our Captains health round in our Scull, and so were dismissed for two days.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIV.

He goes to Mass, where he falls in love with a Jesuite Lady. His subtil devices to obtain her.

THe next day was the Festival of S. James, and we went to Mass, as the Poet says,

The Neighbors all made haste to come away,
And amorous youths flock'd to this Holy Day.
Th'are not so swift to serve a Deity,
As to adore their Mistress's they be:

I viewed more Faces then I told Beads, out of Ceremony; and though I was then in the Church, and there were objects enough to have employed my mind otherwise, yet when I saw the Beauty I had

had chosen, I could not but say in my self,

Οὐκ ἂν ἐγὼ κατ' ὄλυμπον ἐφιμείρω θεὸς εἶναι,
Ἡμετέρην σφάκοιτιν ἔχων ἐπὶ δώμασιν Ἀδήνυ.

I would not change, if happy in my Love,
My state with the Olympus-*shaker* Jove.

The great esteem I had already for her, grew greater and greater, and every action of hers seemed in my eyes a new perfection; that after Mass, I could not but look after her, nay, unknown to my self which way I went, my feet carried me to her door; the envious Walls parted us.

Invide dicebam paries, quid amantibus obstas?

And I was forced to return without speaking to her, but not without thinking of her: For these hinderances set me the more on fire.

Sic ego torrentem, qua nil obstabat eunti,
Lenius, & modico strepitu decurrere vidi:
At quacunque trabes, obstructaque saxa jacebant,
Spumeus & fervens & ab obice savior ibat.

A thousand thoughts came in to my Head, but they thrust so fast, one upon the other, that they were all imperfect. Sometimes I thought to try, if I could take a Lodging in the House, but it was a private family, and admitted none. Sometimes to court her under the name of a Merchant; but I was not well skilled in Traffick, in Navigation, or in the Situation and Commodities of Countreys, and might soon be found out to be an Imposture. Then again, she had many Suters already, and she was in a Guardians hands that deprived her of Liberty, since so many desired a share in her. At last I enquired what I could of her Friends, her Estate, and Condition, amongst the Neighborhood, and found she was a rich Citizens Daughter of *Paris*, and lived there with her Uncle, at his Countrey-house, who hindred her from the presence of her lovers, though she favored many. That she was a Gentlewoman extreamly civil to all that came to her, and that hated to be confined to her Uncles house, but was forced to it by the commands of her Friends, that would otherwise dis-inherite her, being their onely Child.

Having

Having gained this intelligence, but above all, that her Uncle was a Lawyer, I went as gallantly my Industry could make me, to desire his advice in a Case, I pretended I had at Paris. It was then very early in the morning, and the old Man was not up, nor the Lady, but only a youth that waited on them, who understanding my business, and thinking by my outward appearance, I was some person of quality, brought me in to a fair Parlor, desiring me to stay, till he acquainted his Master. Here in the mean time I viewed several pieces of great rarity, amongst the rest, there was one Picture that I was highly taken with. The subject was a Pedler, supposed to be sleeping under a large Tree, in a Countrey full of Monkeys, with his Packer by him. The Monkeys that came from every part to see their new guest, were painted in the pleasantest postures imaginable; some were peeping under his Hat to see his Face, some opening his Codpiece, some untying his Shooes, some hearkening to the noise he made in his Throat, being soundly asleep and weary; but an innumerable company were gotten about his

Packer,

Packet, and had opened it. Every one was running away with some thing, some drew Ribbons after them of one colour, some of another; some took Pins, some Thred, some Laces, some rode on Hobby-horses; some adorned the Trees with these varieties of colours, others drew on Gloves; and amongst the rest, one that had drawn on a Pair of Gloves upon his Fore-feet in a Tree, and then was pulling out some Ribbond, so intangled himself therein, that he fell from the Boughs a good distance, and hung by the Ribbond, making strange gestures with his Face, and his Feet.

In short, there was nothing wanting from this piece that Invention could add, to make it more perfect; many others I saw, the effects of an admirable ingenuity, till the youth returned, and told me, his Master was rising, if I pleased to have patience a little longer. It was not long after before he came, and after some short discourse, I clapped Four Pistols into his hands, desiring his best advice in the matter I should acquaint him with this old and covetous mind, was something refreshed with the fee, and dilated it self so far, as

to

to call for a Bottle of Wine for our Mornings draught. So we sate down, and I related my matter thus.

I have, said I, loved a young Lady long, and she hath been pleased to favor me with the like kindness, and there is now nothing wanting to compleat our felicity, but the will of her Parents; this we dare not ask, by reason of the inequality of our fortunes. For though my Father was a Merchant, and hath left me an estate sufficient, yet she being only Child, is likely to have as much, as was divided between me and eight more Brothers and Sisters. Nevertheless we have resolved, Whether her friends frown or not, since I have Means enough to maintain her, to be married privately, hoping, that time and the impossibility of separating us after marriage, will by degrees reconcile us to her friends.

Now Sir, this is the matter wherein I desire your secrecy and counsel, for I am come from *Paris* hither to you for this purpose onely, being unwilling that the least fame of this should be spred, till such time all things are consummated according to our desires, and if you are pleased

to help me with your advice, you shall find mine thankful, as you are obliging in all things.

The old man gave good attention to my relation, but though he were able to have satisfied me then with an answer, yet for the desire he had to another sort, deferred the matter till another time. It is a hard matter, said he, to determine what is best to be done in such a case, whereon depends a mans perpetual welfare; for it must of necessity be a great trouble to you, as long as you shall live, if her friends refuse her now, notwithstanding your Means may be sufficient to maintain you. We will therefore defer it for two or three days (as you desire) till I have considered the inconveniencies that may arise on this side, and the conveniencies on that, and gathered the conclusion from both what is best to be done. So I took my leave of him for that time, and returned to expect our Captains commands.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXV.

He robs a young Gallant upon the Road, with two other pleasant adventures of his companions that same day.

AT the appointed time all our Companions met, but since there was no intelligence given of any particular Booty, and the day was likely to be clear and fair; bestow your time, Gentlemen, said our Captain, according to your own pleasure to morrow, when and where you please. For by accident it oft falls out, that by wanding to and fro, we find out Pearls or Rings, or Money, and such like things, which our greatest care and study could never conduct us to. Remember onely to behave your selves like men, and Fortune crown your Labours with Success; so we passed, intending the next morning to set out according to our own pleasures severally; but because I was not well skill'd in the Roads, our Captain honoured me with his Company, whom I perceived to be the most subtil and valiant

liant amongst the rest: so we went out that night and lay in an Inn at *La Beauce*, where we saw most passengers goe in; amongst the rest we saw there a young Gallant that seemed to command more in the place, though he was a stranger to it, then the Master himself, all his words were full of vain boastings and Pride that argued onely, that he was either of little Wit or Courage that spoke them, and had been too much indulged in his Youth. So we took all occasions to speak to him, and complying with his humour, we gained so far upon him as to have his company at Supper, pretending we were to goe the same way that he did, for we had got out of him that he was to goe to *Orleans* to buy Wines: we supped in the Chamber wherein he was to lie, and thither he had brought up a fair Case of Pistols from his Saddle: I took not much notice of them before him, though indeed they were very rich and of very good work, lest he might suspect any thing: but when he was gone out of the Chamber, with a Worme that I had in my pocket, I drew out both the Bullets, and so left them in the place

where he had put them. My compani-on was hugely pleased with this device, and said, I deserved rather to be Captain then himself, and that he would willingly be led by such a Projector.

Perhaps, said I——but he came in and disturbed our discourse, so we fell to our Supper, and being he was a mad Gallant, our *Debonaire* humours suted to his so well, that we spent the most part of the night in Merriment; and amongst the rest of our discourses, sometimes I talkt of our journey as if I were a stranger to the place, and that having a small charge of Money about me, yet more then I was willing to lose, I should be extremely glad of his company the next morning: he could not contain his vain boastings at these words, but I have Pistols for the Rogues, said he, they shall find me better prepared then formerly they did when I was robbed between *Angerville* and *Orleans*, and yet then for ten Pistols the Rogues took from me, I think they received as many cuts: nay, I would gladly meet with two or three of them now to revenge my self of the injury they did me then. Our Captain could not but laugh

at his expressions, for as he told me afterwards, he was one that took the ten Pistols from him, and that never man delivered up and parted with his Money more easily then he: do you laugh, said he, to our Captain because the Rogues paid so dear for the small booty they obtained? truly I did laugh my self when I saw four men fly wounded from me, as so many Mice would have done from a Cat, but what would you say when you shall hear hereafter that I have slain some of these Rogues, wounded others, prosecuted the rest, and cleared the Roads of the whole gang? Truly said I, you shall much oblige *France* in so doing, and deserve both the general Praise and the publick Reward of this whole Countrey, and to shew how much this generous action of yours meriteth of all honest men, I would willingly venture my life with yours in taking of them, that are so great a plague, and like so many thorns in the feet of the Traveller. Well said he, with his tongue running before his Wit, we will goe on purpose either behind the Company, or in some by-Roads to meet these Rogues: this extravagant and foolish discourse of

his afforded us too much paſtime all that night.

The next morning as ſoon as the Sun ſent out his firſt Rays, we prepared our ſelves for our journey, ſetting out by our ſelves, then did I deſire the Captain to let us two goe before, halfe a League, for I had a deſire to try his valour by my ſelf; he readily conſented to it, and pretending he waited for ſomething, ſtay'd behind, but with intention to come after us the ſame way: ſo we jogged on lovingly together for a good ſpace, till finding my opportunity. Sir, ſaid I, you have ſpoken ſo much ill of thoſe Gentlemen who uſe the Roads, that I am ſure you doe truly hate them, and I could now wiſh we might meet ſome of them, to puniſh their inſolencies, for though we are but two yet I am glad of it, for the other perſon you ſaw with me I met with by chance, and doe not know but he is of thoſe Rogues that infeſt theſe Roads, and might have brought us into extreme danger. Then did he begin afreſh to boaſt, as if he deſired nothing more then that they would come: nay, had his Words been as pernitious as the

Wounds

Wounds he talked of, he had already slain all the Robbers in the World.

I thought there never could be such another,
But now I find Don Quixote had a Brother,
He spake Gigantick words at such a rate,
As though the wind had turn'd his windmil-
late.

Well, said I, to give him a little breath, I cannot propheſie, but if Thieves ſhould come, would you not like the Man in the Fable that call'd for death, make an excuſe when he came; Yes, ſaid he, I would make an excuſe in defiance of him with my weapon and not my tongue, for I am not deſirous to live longer then worthy of life, nor ſo afraid of death, as not to dare to look danger in the face; then here it is, ſaid I, drawing my ſword, and unleſs thou deliver up all thy Money, and renounce what ever thou haſt ſaid againſt the Lords of the Roads, thy life ſhall pay for the injurious ſpeeches thou haſt pronounced againſt them: the ſight of the ſword calmed his bluſtering words, and he began to ſay in milder terms, now I have gotten ſuch a companion, I am able

able to ſubdue a multitude; that is not the anſwer, ſaid I, that is expected from you; will you or no deliver your Money and renounce all you have ſaid? ah brave companion, ſaid he, we two need fear no Thieves, that are both ſo well prepared and ſo reſolute. Your delay is troubleſome ſaid I, and ſince my words avail nothing with you, give up your Money to this; ſo I cut him over the pate, and was ready to have diſcharged another blow upon his Shoulder; this was enough to have admoniſhed any rational man of the danger he was in: you act the Thief too raſhly, ſaid he; and I remember I have ſeen in ſuch a Play, him that acted a Rival, really to have wounded his adverſary, and then he began to tell me the whole ſubſtance of the Play. I was much pleaſed at this humour above all the reſt, till ſuch time I had found ſport enough with his relation. But to return to my purpoſe, come come, ſaid I, deliver your Money, and gave my Gallant a good ſlaſh over the Shoulder, it was driven ſo home that the ſmart made him ſenſible of the truth that I was in earneſt. I hope, Sir, ſaid he, I have given you no cauſe to be angry

gry with me, but if you are not well pleas-
ed in that I have spoken too largely a-
gainst the Lords of the Road, that
shall cause no difference between us, and
as it began in an Inn, so it shall end at the
next Town we come in a glass of Wine:
I shall willingly renounce what I have
said rather then loose your good compa-
ny. Then said I, one part of the busi-
ness you have already dispatched, the
other is as easie, and I know you are as
liberal as valiant, and you will not refuse
to part with a little Money, therefore
deliver it: You give me cause said he, to
suspect you are one of them whose part
you take, I protest unless you be more
civil, this Pistol, (clapping his hand on
the Case) shall requite you the two
blows you have given me. I was now
weary with his folly and delays, and be-
gan to charge him with such blows on
his Shoulders, Arms, and Thighs (for I
was unwilling to kill the poor fool) that
the Gentleman began to set Spurs to his
Horse, not that he had hope of escape,
for he saw my Horse was better then his,
but out of fear, and the desire he had to
be as far from me as he might possibly;

but

But I followed him too close to let him run far; and when he could flie no farther, like the bruised Worm he turned, though to but little purpose; and drawing forth one of his Pistols, he discharged the Powder onely, for I had before drawn out the Bullet, but seeing there was no harm done to me, and terrified with the death I threatned, he delivered to me about Fifty Crowns of Money: So I left him and returned towards the place whence I came, then I met our Captain, for purposely he kept a good distance from us, and told him all that had hapned. He was so mightily pleased with the adventure, that he resolved to follow him, and have some discourse with him, as a person ignorant of all that had hapned.

He soon overtook him, by reason of the goodness of his Horse: Good God, Sir, said he to him, what is befaln your Companion, I met him posting back so fast! Hang him, said he (for that will be his end) he is a Rogue, and offered me violence, and would have robbed me; but I have sent him away with a Bullet in his Breech, and I suppose that makes him post back so fast, to get remedy for his

his wound. I wish he had staid a little longer, then might the other Bullet have cleared this Road of one Lord, for so he termed himself.

Here our Captain could not but laugh, (for he was indeed by Birth a Lord, though Fortune had taken away all his Titles, except that of the Road;) but said he, should the resolute Man have taken my Purse, I am not so foolish as to carry all Money where Thieves may find it. Perhaps he might have taken my Silver, yet first he must have reduced me to that weakness, that I could not make resistance. Put the case, I say, he had taken my Silver, I have Gold in a better place. Have you so, said our Captain, Can there be any place which these Rogues leave unsearched about a Man? Yes replied he, I will tell you what place, between the Soals of your Boots. I have carried Gold several times undiscovered there. Yes, but said our Captain, do you think your self, that if any of the Thieves had seen it, they would not have taken it? Assuredly, said he, when they had wounded me, so that I could make no resistance; for since they are a sort of people that live

live like Kites by Rapine; though their common food be course, and they are accustomed to it; yet if they see a Chicken in their way, they must have a snatch at it.

Now hast thou spoken truth, said our Captain, of the Lords of the Road, they were very foolish indeed, if they did let slip any such Booty, when the owner himself gives them intelligence of it, and therefore you must part with some of your Gold. Yes indeed, said he, the Wine is as dear at *Orleans*, as it is good; and I fear I shall have very little left before I have made my Market there. I can save you the trouble, said our Captain, of going to *Orleans*, I am a Wine Merchant; How much Money have you to bestow, for I have Wines of several Prizes? The value, said he, of an Hundred Crowns; then you shall have a taste, said our Captain, of my best Wine; and thereupon gave him a cut with his Sword, so vehemently, that the Blood gushed out. See, there is the Wine, said he, and if you deliver not all your Gold, I shall broach the Vessel in a thousand places more.

The

The poor gallant having found by experience before, that it was in vain to flie, drew forth the other Piſtol and diſcharged it with the ſame effect, for the Bullet was drawn out: But our Captain delivered his blows ſo thick upon him, that the fear he had of death, made him ſoon unrip the Soals of his Boots, and render his Gold. Our Captain in compaſſion of his folly, ſeeing him to be a perſon that could not any ways ſhift for himſelf, gave him ſomething back, and ſo left him. Then we met at our Club, where every one was much delighted with the adventure, nay, every one almoſt brought in ſome ſmall booty that day, and amongſt the reſt, one of our Footmen walking up and down the Town, found a little Packet of Letters, which amongſt the other Booties were laid upon the Table; and after the Money was divided, they were read to this purpoſe.

Mr. *Monſieur,*

THe ſervice you have been pleaſed to do me in many Important Affairs heretofore, makes me preſume once more to deſire your help and aſſiſtance in gaining

Madam

Madam Nourice, *for since she will not be favorable to my love, I am resolved to take her by force: To the effecting of which, here is a fair opportunity offereth it self. Her Father hath sent for her to* Paris, *and she goes on Horsback from her Uncles House next Tuesday, I know her retinue will be small and weak, and we shall easily carry her away. Therefore, if you do provide your self with a Horse, and are ready for the attempt that Morning of the appointed day, you make me*

Your

Perpetual Friend

and Servant

J. Loret.

This they threw by, but I took it up, and put it into my Pocket; for I knew the Person that was to be forced, could be no other then the Lady I desired to serve

Ad quam per centum Scyllas, *per Mille* Charybdes
Tranarem laturus opem:

For

For

Quisquis amat, servit, sequitur captivus amatam
Fert dominæ cervice jugum, fert verbera tergo
Dulcia, fert stimulos, trahit & bovis instar aratrum.

says the Poet. There was nothing difficult that I would not attempt for her sake, Love had made me so bold; yet I concealed my Passion as much as possibly I could in their presence, till such time the Club broke up, and we were all dismissed.

CHAP. XXVI.

By a subtil device he gaineth the Uncles consent to marry his Neece.

NOw had I time to visit the old Lawyer again, and to proceed in my Intentions; and since the time was so short before she went to *Paris*, I went the very next day to desire her Uncles answer

to

to my case. He was very glad at my arrival, and that I might prevail the better upon him, I gave him the other fee, this produced another Bottle of Wine; but what was far beyond my expectation, the Lady her self brought it in, for the man was out of the House. Then did I really think some Goddess was presenting a Cup of *Nectar* to me, and I was so much surprized with her sight, that I had almost missed the taking of the Glass: But recovering my self before the old Man could take notice (though her eye was so quick as to perceive something I thought, and to blush) I drank to the Lady; she pledged, as Modesty useth by kissing the Glass, and left us. Then I began to put the old Man in mind of my Cause, desiring his counsel in the matter: I see, said he, but one way to the effecting your desire, that is, by marrying her as soon as possible, privately; and when you have done that, fear not, but I shall find out means to reconcile you both to her Friends. I perceived he was still desirous I should come again to him, and told me no more then what I knew before. Nevertheless I made answer, I approved of his counsel very

well,

well, but thought it would be a difficult thing to find a Priest that would marry us so privately, since, for my part I knew none. You shall not need to take much care for that, said he, there is a friend of mine at *la Beauce* that is come thither lately from *Paris* to see his Lands, and he shall marry you. In this, said I, you oblige me beyond measure; and if all things succeed well, you shall be well requited for your prudent advice. There remains onely, that you would write me a small Note to that Holy Man of your acquaintance, that we are a couple of your Friends that may be lawfully married, and the like; so shall the matter be brought to pass easily, without trouble or suspition: And since I must trouble you to write your self, pray accept of this Pair of Gloves (putting two Pistols more in his hand) not as the reward; but a small acknowledgment of your favor.

Thus induced by my words and money to favor my design, he write me a Letter to the Priest, and after another Glass of Wine or two, I took my leave of him.

CHAP. XXVII.

He goes to Orleans *with the Captain of the Rogues; the nature of the place, and what befel them there.*

OUr Captain by this time had summoned us all to appear at the accustomed rendezvous, and after some orders given, he told the company he had a mind to go to *Orleans*, as well to see our House there, as to show me the Roads and the City, hoping, notwithstanding, that we might meet some prize in the way. So the rest were left to their own disposing, and we set forward in our journey. *Orleans* is a place that hath a very liberal portion of all Fruits, but especially of Grapes, insomuch, that *André du Chesne* calleth it the prime Cellar of *Paris*, *Est une part*, saith he, *si heureuse & si fecunde sur tout en vins quon la peut dire l'une des premiers celliers de* Paris. And he hath not said amiss of it, for the Vines wherein he maketh it to be so happy, deserve no less commendation then he hath given them, as yielding the best Wines in all the Kingdom.

Here

Here is an Universsity, and a Seat of Justice; for this Town is one of the *Sieges Presidiaux*, Seats of Justice: But that which rendreth the City extreamly pleasant is, Its situation in respect of the Air, and the Walks about it; one being very pleasant under a Rank of Palm-trees; the second which is near the Bridge, hath the Water running by it on both sides; the third on the East side of the City, is the *Palle Malle*. Here in the Evening come the Ladies of Pleasure, nor doth any Monsieur walk here single, but he quickly finds a mate. *Women and Wine*, saith the Poet, *are parallel*; and since the Wine was so good, my Companion perswaded me to taste the Women. If therefore there were found more Children that year in the Town, then Fathers, they were beholding to us for two of them. There is yet another Walk *l'Estappe*, principally frequented with Merchants: This we often visited, to see if we could find out any thing to our purpose; we inquired after many strange persons, and the price of several Commodities: And amongst other news, this story was then hot in the mouth of the People.

A Pleasant Story of two Merchants.

THere were two French Merchants in *Italy*, Buying or Selling their Commodities, who having found the lightness of some of the *Italian* Dames fell into discourse of their Wives, each one commending and extolling the Chastity of his own: Upon this, one of them who was both subtil, and a proper man withal, Friend, said he, I would wage willingly with any Man Five hundred Crowns, that I could prevail against the chastest Woman upon Earth. It is done replied the other, before these Gentlemen, Five hundred Crowns shall be the Wager, and so many I will lay, That you seduce not my Wife by any means, to comply with your unlawful desires.

The Wager was laid, and not long after the Merchant posted to *France*, there by the means of an old Woman his friend, that dwelt with the other Merchants Wife, he got a Chest of his to be kept in the Ladies Chamber for a day or two; in this he inclosed himself, and in the night, when the Moon shone, and the Lady was

fast

fast asleep, he came out of his Chest and viewed all the Pictures, the Bed, and all the furniture of the Room; but finding nothing he could carry away, and fearing these were not manifest tokens enough, he went to the Bed side. The Weather was hot, and the Curtains were not very close, beside the Lady lay with her Brest naked out of the Bed, so that he could easily perceive by the light of the Moon, that she had a Mold beneath her Right Brest, and some few small Hairs upon it. Then did he return to his Chest, and the next day was carried out of the House in it undiscovered by all. And not long after went back to *Spain*, and having called the same company that were witnesses to the Wager, he related how he had enjoyed her, in such a Bed, such a Room adorned with such Pictures, such Hangings, such Furniture; but above all, That she had a Mold under her Right Brest, with some Hairs upon it. The other convinced by so many manifest tokens, was forced to pay the Wager. But incensed by the loss of his Money, by his disgrace, and the infidelity of his Wife, he went immediately to *Paris*, to a Neighboring Vil-

lage; and thither he sent for his Wives man, that had always proved very faithful unto him, and swearing him to Secrecy; You must, said he, carry out your Mistress to walk, or the like, into the Woods, and there slay her. I shall leave thee sole Heir of all my Estate for it, and whilest I live, thou shalt share with me; for she is the wickedest Woman in the World.

This great reward spurred on the youth, who was of poor parentage, to the murder. And not long after walking out with his Mistress in the Fields, Mistress, said he, you ought now to prepare your self for the other world, for my Master hath this day appointed me to take away your life, for the great wickedness you have committed, against him. Good *James*, said she (for so was the Mans name) you know I never offended him in any thing, and how lovingly we parted; nor can this arise, but upon some mistake; which when discovered, will bring both of you to the extreamity of torture. Forbear therefore, and spare my life; and if your Master have by any threats or promise of reward, constrained you to act such wickedness; and that he hath resolved, he will see my face

no

no more, desist but till to morrow, and give me some of thy old Cloaths, so will I leave *France*; and thou shalt tell thy Master, That thou hast killed me, and the Woolfs have eaten me. The youth moved with her words and tears, and afraid to stain his hands with her Blood, consented to what she said. Then told his Master he had slain her, received his reward, and then travelled from *Paris* with him.

Here they accidentally met with the other Merchant at *Orleans*, the Wife was there likewise in Mans Cloaths, and as a stranger accuseth her Husband of Murder, he accuseth the other of Adultery. But at length it was concluded by the Law, the Husband should be freed and agree with his Wife that had been so faithful; the other onely suffered death, that by his deceit had been the cause of all the evil.

We spent two days at *Orleans* thus amongst the Merchants, but could gain no intelligence of any that was to go our way. Nevertheless, I earnestly intreated our Captain to return; so that he easily per-

perceived there was some extraordinary occasion that called me back. And as we were very familiar with one another, our Humors and our Years being the same. There is something, said he you design, you are unwilling I should know; and I am very sorry, since we are not onely of the same Profession, but Friends and Companions, that I may not be likewise a partaker of your cares. You have judged right, answered I, but though I have no reason to suspect any infidelity in any Man, much less in you, that I esteem and find faithful above all men; nevertheless I shall oblige you, before I tell you my concerns, by swearing my self your perpetual Friend; that you will be the like to me, and assist me in my present occasions, as I promise to assist you to my last breath in all your affairs. Then embracing me, Let these Arms, said he, perish, when they deny what they can give to my Friend. And in this manner did we two tye an inviolable knot of Friendship.

Afterwards I related all that had passed between me, and the Lady, and her Uncle, and concerning the Letters that one

of

of our men had found, of my Rivals intentions; and how I intended to take occasion thence to serve her; to rescue her from those Villains; and thence conduct her to the Priests house, which her Uncle had sent me to; and shewing her his consent under his own hand, to marry her. My Companion was highly astonished at the contrivance of the Plot, and in discoursing concerning it, we spent the best part of our journey, till we were come within a League of *Estampes*. It was then duskish, and we overtook a Gentlewoman on foot upon the Road, whom by the little light we had, we could easily perceive to be a person of no mean quality. Then considering the way she had to go, and pitying her nature, I proffered her the use of my Horse, she accepted of my proffer with thanks, and promising to carry her to our Inn, I brought her to our Club; there by the Captains order we had a little Table prepared for us three, and after we were refreshed from the wearines our journey had caused in us. We desired the Stranger to tell the reason of her Travels, for she

was

was a person truly beautiful, and that ought to have been respected by all Men.'

Her Relation.

I Am, said she, though not the poorest, yet the unhappiest of my Sex: For as I walked two days ago in the *Palle Malle* at *Orleans*, I perceived two young men both of comely stature, coming towards me: They appeared both like Angels to me; but the first I saw, so employed my eyes, that I had no time to view the other. He had already conquered me at a distance, and had no need to attempt it again; nevertheless he came to me, and desired me, nay, forced me by his charming words to yeild to his will: A thing that all the World shall never force from me again, though they rack me to death, excepting him that hath done it. It is for his sake, that I have stolen away from my Friends, who are able Citizens of *Orleans*, dis-inherited my self of all I can expect from them, either to find him out that hath stolen away my heart,

or

or to free my self from the shame that must necessarily fall upon me, if this matter be known.

Here her tears stopt her words, but they added a lustre to her Beauty. And though for modesty, all the while she made this relation she had fixed her eyes upon the ground, and could not know the Captains face; yet he soon remembred hers, and that she was the person he enjoyed at *Orleans*; and not able to contain himself, her Beauty was so great, and his pitty no less, he ran, and embracing her, I am the man, said he, that you seek, that have been the cause of your misfortune: And since you have given me so manifest a sign, that you are a vertuous Woman, I shall to morrow make thee my Wife, and afterwards we will go and visit thy Friends. Then he bid her forget her sorrow, for he gave her manifest tokens that he was the Man.

And now she began to know him by his Speech and Visage, though in the way her sorrow had blinded her eyes, and

stopt

stopt her ears. So he took care for a good Chamber for her in the Town that night, and after much content on all sides she for her good Fortune, our Captain for his Beautiful Spouse, and all the company by reason of our several Adventures, parted well satisfied with that days events.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVIII.

Herescues his Lady from his Rival, then Marrieth her himself, and afterwards by a stratagem reconciles himself to her Parents.

THe next day being Sunday all our Labours ceased, except my Love,

Hoc animi tam triste, bonum tam dulce venenum.
Quotidie crudele magis crescebat in horas,
Ut calor.

And by so much the more was I inflamed, because I saw my companion so happy in his fair Mistriss, and my self onely crossed by a base and villainous Rival, this Rage augmented my valour, and set all my Faculties to work how I might frustrate his designs, and the next morning was no sooner come, but I went to my companions; I have, said I, a small business in hand, my Friends, but since it concerns my private interest alone, and there is no publick benefit arising from it, if you

are

are willing to help me in it, I shall give you a good Feast and a Tearse of Claret to make merry; by my promise, and by the Captains Commands, who understood the whole matter I intended; for I acquainted him with it as we came from *Orleans*, and by the propension every one had to help his Companion in any thing that might concur to his welfare, they all unanimously consented to be ready on Tuesday morning by break of day. In the mean time I prepared all things ready for our Marriage; I visited the Priest, and entertained him nobly at a Banquet, telling him how by her Unkles consent he was desired to marry me to his Neece the next morning, and shewed him the Note written with her Unkles hand, he knew it, and wished me all happiness: so I desired him it might be done with all possible haste and secresie as soon as we came, which would be early in the morning, and then took my leave.

The light no sooner broke into our Horizon the next morning, but we were already seven in number on horseback; so we marched towards *La Beause*, there we stay'd in an Inn till such times the Lady

came

came by, she was accompanied only with the Lawyers man that rid before, we let her pass a good way, and then we set out afterwards, till coming to a place more eminent then the rest, we had a full view of all the subjacent declivity. Here we watched what would become of her, and presently there passed by us in great speed four Horsemen, those I supposed my Rivals, but willing to let her understand I was her servant, and that she should be an eye-witness of it, I let them pass, in small time they had overtaken the Lady, dismounted her by force, and notwithstanding her Teats and Cries, were carrying her away. It was now no time to delay, for we were almost half a Leagues distance from them, nevertheless the goodness of our Horses soon got ground of them, and in a quarter of an hours time, notwithstanding the speed they made to be gone, we overtook them. My anger gave me no leisure to speak, but I ran so furiously on them before they were aware, that I dismounted two of them, but not intending to dispute it with the hindmost, I proceeded to him that had the Lady; Sir, said I, deliver up this Lady that so wrong-

wrongfully you have forced and are now carrying away, or your Life ſhall pay for your Treachery; he was ſurprized ſo extremely at our arrival and my words, that he could not make a ready anſwer, and I was ſo impatient as not to expect it; but unwilling to kill him before her face, for fear to fright her, and incur her diſpleaſure, I alighted and helped her from her Horſe, ſhe was no ſooner down, and I on foot, but the coward taking this advantage, came upon me as he was on horſeback with his ſword in his hand, and if our Captain who was as forward in the aſſault for my ſake, as I was my ſelf, had not defended the blow, my life had been in great danger; in ſhort, our Number, our Courage, and our Cauſe, ſoon gave us the victory, and after a few blows we put our enemies to flight: the tumult thus appeaſed; Noble Sir, ſaid the Lady, for this act aſſureth me you are ſuch, give me leave to know to what worthy perſon I am obliged for this ſuccor, for next to my Parents that gave me life, I am moſt indebted to you that have defended it ſo well. Madam, ſaid I, I ſhould want ſome of that worth which you impute, if

I ſhould deny your Requeſt; know then I am one of thoſe that have been ſo happy as to love you ſecretly without daring to reveal my paſſion, till ſuch time I had merited your Favour by ſome Noble ſervice, and have ever been ſince the firſt time I ſaw you, as ſtudious for your welfare as my own, which made me, when by a Letter that was found and brought to me, I underſtood the danger you were like to incur in your journey to *Paris*, engage theſe my friends on your behalf, and that you may be certified of the truth, ſee, here is the Letter of the treacherous *Loret* which he writ to his Confederate *Monſeur*; and here is another of your Unkles own writing; ſhe peruſed the firſt with a great deal of anger towards *Loret* and his Companions, the latter with a great deal of aſtoniſhment, and modeſt bluſhes, till ſatisfied at laſt with the truth, and by ſeveral circumſtances concurring, thinking it a thing ordained by Fate, that ſhe ſhould marry the preſerver of her Honour, ſhe conſented to goe with us to *La Beauſs*, there were we married, and having paſſed away the day in great merriment, I lay there that night.

Ingremio dulcig sinu niveisque Lacertis.
Cateraquis nescit? lassi requievimus ambo.

CHAP. XXIX.

He is reconciled to his Wives friends; the Captain marrieth his own Spouse, they both leave the Society of Thieves, one departeth to Orleans, *the other to* Paris.

THe next morning our Captain to compleat the Adventure, sent for his Spouse from *Estampes*, and was married to her by the same Priest, which caused us to stay there one day longer: afterwards I made my Feast that I had promised to my Companions, and before them all declared, that I was desirous for the present to leave the Society; but because my Horse, Pistols, and Boots, and the like, which according to our Laws were to be left for the publick good, would be serviceable to me in my journey

ney to *Paris*, I desired they would take the value of them in Money; so they were valued, and I laid down the price; our Captain who was driven to the Trade more by Necessity, then any natural Inclination, did the like, then did we bring in our Ladies, and after much Mirth and Joy we all parted, the Captain with his Lady to *Orleans* to her Friends, the rest to their Club at *Estampes*, and I with my Wife to *Paris*. Her friends at first were much astonished and incensed at the Marriage, but understanding at last how I had saved her Honour, and appeased by the Mediation of her Friends and the Damsels Tears, whose Heart I had already wonne, and knowing it was impossible now to part us, considering likewise that she was their onely Child and Heir to their Honour and Estate, and what Disgrace would come upon them if they rejected her, they caused a great feast to be made, and calling many of the chief Citizens their Friends together, they celebrated our Marriage-Feast with the greatest Solemnity imaginable, and afterward gave

their Daughter a Portion ſuitable to her great Beauty.

Sit licet in natos facies auſtera Parentum,
Æqua tamen ſemper mens eſt, & amica voluntas.

Upon

Upon the Author of this ingenious Work by his Friend.

SUrround his Head, Triumphant Lawrels now,
And with a Glorious Branch adorn his Brow.
For now he has overcome, and in the Breast
Of his Beloved takes a gentle rest.
So when the Marriage is concluded, all
The Play is done, the Curtains are let fall.

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